Gloria rejects 'peace by installment' offer of MILF

Story on PAGE A2

Now, Beltran wants refund from Meralco

WA-IS TALAGA YANG MERALCO

By Carlito Pablo

GUESS who won't get a refund from the Manila Electric Co.? Who else but Congressman Crispin Beltran, a vociferous PPA critic who stopped paying his electricity bills more than a year ago.

NOW/A21

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- **27 killed in attacks in Jerusalem, Gaza City** WORLD /A11
- **PNP announces 8 fail drug test** METRO /A22
- **DOJ mum on Dante Tan** NEWS /A5

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Friday, June 13, 2003 ★★ 104 pages / 14 sections / vol. 18 / no. 185 P15 website: www.inq7.net

'RP to lose if GMA doesn't run in '04'

Int'l rating firm boosts President's standing

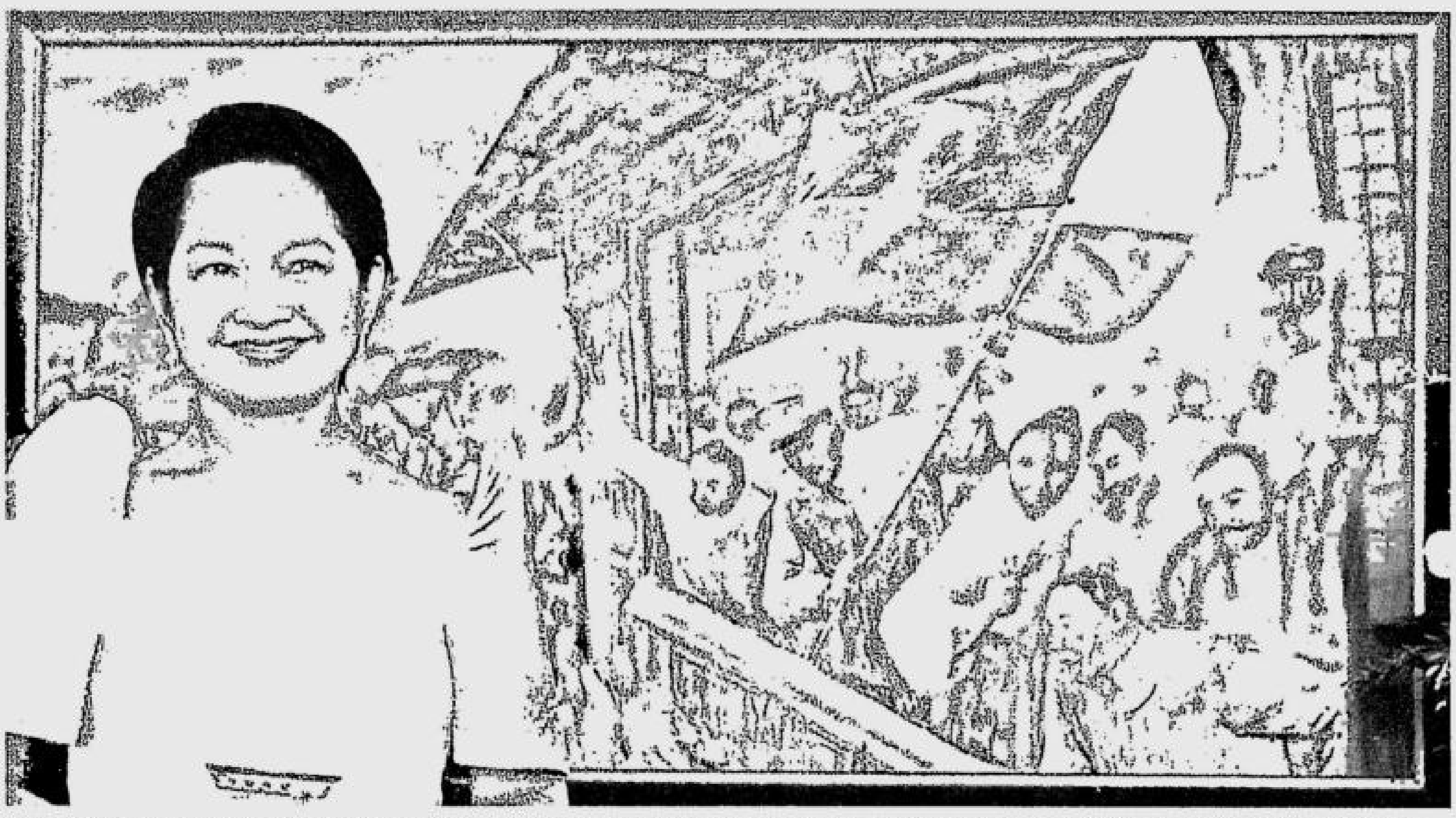
PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo seems reluctant, but the clamor for her to seek a full six-year term in the 2004 elections appears to be growing here and abroad.

After US President George W. Bush, South Korean President Roh Moon-hyun and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed reportedly urged Ms Macapagal to stand for election, now comes what amounts to an endorsement from another unlikely source—the London-based international agency, Fitch Ratings, that grades the creditworthiness of various governments.

"(Ms Macapagal's) decision not to stand for a second term potentially robs the Philippines of a unique opportunity for policy continuity and leaves wide open a field of barely differentiated presidential hopefuls," Fitch said yesterday, even as it downgraded the Philippine government's credit rating. *(See story in Business on Page B1.)*

Unless Ms Macapagal throws her hat in the ring, "the main risks are that whoever wins the election secures only a weak mandate and/or displays a shallow commitment to recent hard-won improvements in governance and reform," Fitch said.

RP TO LOSE/A18



FOR the first time, the traditional vin d'honneur is held outside Malacañang on Independence Day. On her third day in Mindanao, President Macapagal hosted the reception for the diplomatic corps and members of her official family on the presidential yacht, the BRP Ang Pangulo, anchored at the Majini Navy Wharf in Zamboanga City.

EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA: Fight for freedom now in Mindanao

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—For the second consecutive year, President Macapagal-Arroyo marked Independence Day in Mindanao—where, she said, the struggle for "true freedom" continues.

"The fight for freedom is no longer in Cavite, Bataan or Corregidor, but here in the promised land, in Mindanao," Ms Macapagal said in Filipino.

Ms Macapagal raised the flag in Gen. Santos City at exactly 7 a.m., then left for this city for the traditional vin d'honneur. At about 2:30 p.m., she proceeded to the City Coliseum in Barangay Tetuan, where she delivered her Independence Day speech.

"I am here in Mindanao for our celebration of Independence Day, because it is here where we need to give full expression to the promise of true freedom," she said in Filipino.

At the vin d'honneur, held on board the presidential yacht BRP Ang Pangulo and attended by some 65 foreign dignitaries, the President addressed Mindanao's most pressing problem: peace and order.

She said she welcomed the decision by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to extend its unilateral ceasefire by 10 more days, and announced that she had reconstituted the government peace panel.

The ceasefire was supposed to have ended midnight on Wednesday.

But while the government views the extension as a positive development, she said her administration wanted "to make sure that this is not a tactical move (on the part of the MILF)."

GMA/A18

Danding says he's undecided if he'll run

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

EDUARDO "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.'s media consultant has announced that he will run for president next year, but the businessman himself appears coy about his intentions.

"Forgive me but I cannot say whether I will run or not. I need to study it first," the business tycoon told about 120 friends and supporters, who gathered at a clubhouse in Foster City, San Francisco, to join him in celebrating his 68th birthday on June 10.

Cojuangco said this was his response to people who had been asking if he would make an announcement soon on whether he would run for president, according to sources who attended the party.

A source close to Cojuangco said it would not do him any good to make an early announcement that he would be running for president.

Some sources said Cojuangco might yet forge an alliance with Ms Macapagal that could go two ways—he runs and she supports him or she runs and he backs her.

For now, it is a wait-and-see game.

Among those present at the birthday party were his wife Gretchen, daughter-in-law Rio Diaz-Cojuangco, former Ambassador to the United States Ernesto Maceda, and Senators Vicente Sotto and Edgardo Angara. Also at the gathering were governors and other political allies of Cojuangco, chair of San Miguel Corp.

Cojuangco had gone to the United States for a medical checkup.

Rod Reyes, former press secretary, said on Wednesday that Cojuangco's doctors in the United States had declared him physically fit to stand the rigors of an elec-

DANDING/A18

Roco supports Bacani's accuser

BISHOP Teodoro Bacani's accuser has found an ally in Raul Roco, a presidential hopeful and former senator once dubbed as the Senate's "honorary woman" for spearheading the passage of the Anti-Sexual Harassment Law.

In a statement sent from the United States, Roco urged the public not to ascribe ill motives to the woman who served as Bacani's secretary for five years.

He said he "sympathize[s] deeply" with women "who have been wronged by those in positions of power and influence."

"If the lady felt she had been wronged, I'm sure the Church would not turn a deaf ear to her story," he said, noting that the Vatican was in the process of investigating the case.

"[In the] meantime, we should pray for God's guidance for the complainant and also for the person who, whether knowingly or not, had subjected her to such an ordeal," he said.

Roco, the first prominent

ROCO/A20

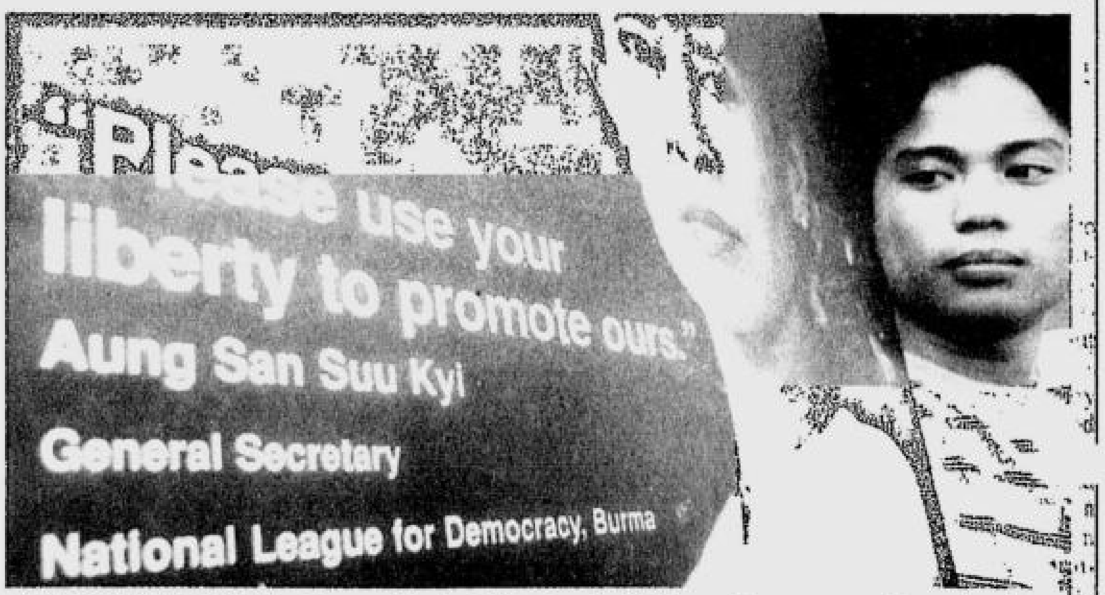
There's bigger scandal, says activist priest

By Gerald G. Lacuarta
in Manila
and Romulo Ponte
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

MORE than the sex controversies plaguing it, the "biggest scandal" in the Philippine Catholic Church is that it has yet to become a "Church of the Poor," according to an activist priest.

Fr. Joe Dizon, spokesperson of the watchdog group PlunderWatch, said the Church has yet to uphold and protect the welfare of the poor by taking concrete steps to improve the quality of their lives.

THERE'S/A20


"Please use your liberty to promote ours."
Aung San Suu Kyi
General Secretary
National League for Democracy, Burma

THE DAY WILL COME: The free world, the Philippines included, continues to press Burma's ruling military junta to free its Nobel Peace Prize prisoner who has become the rallying symbol of the democratic forces in her country. Like-minded Filipinos stage a rally on Thursday in front of the Burmese Embassy demanding Aung San Suu Kyi's immediate release.

ERIK ARAZAS

MANILA POST
NEXT R.P. PREZ?
A CRIME FIGHTER FOR MALACANANG
PING LACSON
www.newyorksightseeing.com

DON'T RAIN ON PING'S PARADE: One of the "floats" mounted by some Filipinos parading in New York City to celebrate their homeland's 105th Independence Day features a streamer declaring their political sentiments: Senators Lacson and Loren Legarda in 2004.

Prosecutors want Erap back in jail

By Armand N. Nocum

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada may be headed back to Camp Crame, the headquarters of the Philippine National Police, where he was first detained on plunder charges.

Government prosecutors filed yesterday a motion before the Sandiganbayan seeking the transfer of the ousted President from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City to the building of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force in Camp Crame, also in Quezon City.

Prosecutors said a hospital was only for the sick, not for a man who appeared fit enough to fight Malacañang, the judiciary and the Catholic Church in a bid to reclaim the presidency.

"He is already well. He is no longer complaining of any ailment," said Special Prosecutor John Turalba of the Office of the Ombudsman.

The request came after Estrada filed an impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and seven justices of the Supreme Court, and after he requested the Sandiganbayan to summon President Macapagal-Arroyo and the justices to the witness stand.

Estrada wants Ms Macapagal to testify that she had illegally grabbed the presidency with the collusion of Davide and the other justices, who swore her into office on Jan. 20, 2001 amid a military-backed popular revolt.

Ms Macapagal denounced the legal maneuver as "pure harassment," while Davide dismissed it as "some sort of an institutional attack."

Estrada was first detained at Camp Crame following his arrest on April 25, 2001. After two days, he was moved to the VMMC where he spent six days. Then he was transferred to Fort Sto. Domingo in Laguna. After 12 days at the fort, he was moved to the VMMC on security

PROSECUTORS/A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/06/13/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FrontPage

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

GMA rejects 'peace by installment'

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday rejected the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front's latest truce offer, calling it "a ceasefire by installment designed only to gain tactical advantage."

"We welcome any unilateral gesture to further silence the guns, but we would rather have a permanent ceasefire leading to substantive negotiations," the President said in statement, as she called on the rebels to demonstrate their sincerity rather than offer "these transitory peace overtures."

The MILF, responding to an appeal from Malaysia, decided yesterday to extend a 10-day unilateral ceasefire until June 22.

"My decision on this issue will depend on national security considerations, the permanent safety of our communities and a concrete show of sincerity on the other side," Ms Macapagal said.

The President is on a weeklong working tour of Mindanao and was visiting the military's Southern Command headquarters here when the rebel announcement came.

Security was tightened in Zamboanga City yesterday where the President marked the country's 105th anniversary of independence, receiving foreign diplomats aboard the presidential yacht and presiding over a military command conference.

Ms Macapagal, who said she had obtained a commitment last week from Malaysian Premier Mahathir Mohamad to broker the peace talks, has reconstituted the government negotiating panel to be ready in case a serious peace opportunity arose.

At the same time, however, she warned the military would continue "sustained punitive actions" against "terrorists" within the MILF which the government has blamed for deadly attacks in Mindanao since March and which left the intermittent peace talks in Kuala Lumpur stalled.

She has appointed Eduardo Ermita, presidential adviser on the peace process, as panel head replacing Jesus Dureza, the presidential adviser for Mindanao.

Dureza will focus on his primary role of overseeing the P5.5 billion government funds and $1.3 billion in official development assistance that will be poured into Mindanao over the next three to five years.

Interviewed by The Associated Press yesterday, Ermita said the government would be watching for signs of "good faith" from the rebels before resuming the talks.

He said that for the moment, the government would not reciprocate with its own ceasefire declaration, but he was sure "these things will be discussed in the very near future."

"The position is still (that) we will watch for the developments as far as keeping their own word on the ceasefire," Ermita said.

Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, in an interview with ANC television said the reactivation of the peace panel was "an indirect reciprocation of the MILF's truce (offer)."

Bunye also said Malacañang has sent a team of emissaries to the Moro leaders bringing with them the draft peace agreement. *Reports from Gil Cabacungan, TJ Burgonio and Edwin O. Fernandez and Rosa May V. de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau, with a report from AP*

Last hostage Ulla finally free, gets to meet GMA

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Hostage Roland Ulla was yesterday tearfully reunited with his family after more than three years of captivity by the Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang in Mindanao.

Wearing a clean white shirt but looking emaciated, Ulla was presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo at the military's Southern Command headquarters here where he was airlifted on Wednesday from Jolo island.

"I asked her to help my family," said Ulla, his voice choked with emotion as his wife and two young sons flanked him.

Ulla, a Filipino, was among 21 mostly Western hostages seized in April 2000 by the Abu Sayyaf from the Sipadan island resort in Malaysia, where he had worked as a diving assistant.

All the other hostages were freed in batches over several months, in return for huge ransoms, according to military accounts.

Ulla became the forgotten hostage after the gang kidnapped a second group of tourists from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan in May 2001.

The military at one point suspected that he had joined his captors, having been allegedly seen by residents carrying a rifle.

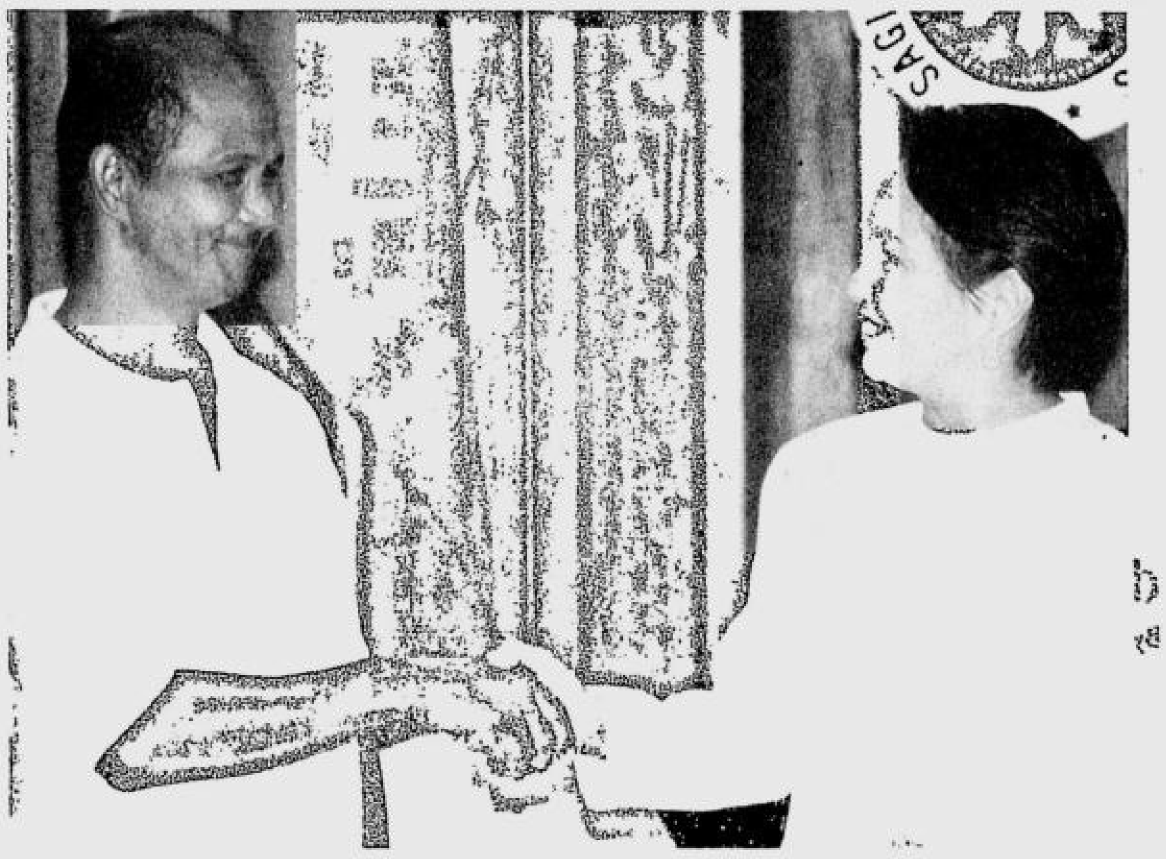
Ulla was finally freed last week after he was separated from his captors amid clashes with the military. He was kept away from the public eye for several days, raising concerns among former hostages who called on the military to release him.

Yesterday, the military explained that Ulla had sought protective custody from military authorities "out of his own free will and volition" and cleared him of any links with the Abu Sayyaf.

During his more than three years as a hostage, Ulla was forced to cook for the rebels and was issued an M-16 rifle without ammunition "whenever they moved from one place to another, until the time of his escape."

Military officials denied reports that Ulla was being held as an Abu Sayyaf suspect.

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff, said Ulla had asked to stay longer at the camp for his own safety as he had been threatened by his Abu Sayyaf captors before he escaped on June 4 in Patikul, Sulu. *AFP and TJ Burgonio*



IT'S HARD to tell who was happier, former hostage Rolando Ulla or President Macapagal, when the former was introduced to the latter in Zamboanga City yesterday.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Gov't denies forcing evacuees to leave centers

DID PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's Mindanao visit drive thousands of evacuees out of evacuation centers in Pikit, North Cotabato?

Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman doesn't think so.

"There is no truth to the issue that thousands of evacuees in Pikit, North Cotabato were told to pack up...and were forced to return to their villages with no assurance of security because President Macapagal-Arroyo was going to be in the area," Soliman said in a letter to the INQUIRER.

A total of 18,475 evacuees have left the refugee camp and returned to their communities since April, she said. Some of them, however, had gone back to evacuation centers due to sporadic fighting between military and Muslim rebels, she added.

There are still 26,730 people in evacuation centers and the military is currently building "community-based convertible structures" for them, according to Soliman.

Each of the structures will have an area of 154 sq.m., enough to augment the number of school buildings currently housing the evacuees, she said.

"If our intention was to force them to return to their own communities, then why are we building these CBCS which are semipermanent in nature?" she asked in the letter.

Displaced residents had accused the government of forcing them back to their war-torn communities to "sanitize" Pikit in time for the presidential visit.

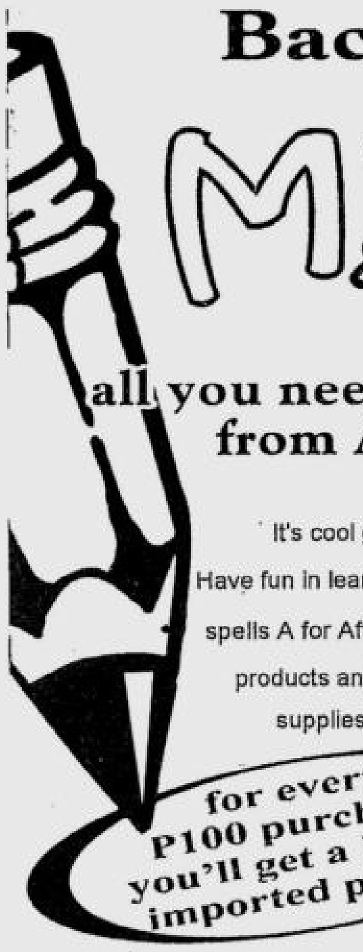
The peace group Mindanao People's Caucus blamed the sudden return of the evacuees for the death of an 8-month-old baby who died of asthma, minutes after his family arrived in Balibit, Pikit.

"The President is not even going to Pikit during her scheduled trip in Mindanao," Soliman added.

Today, Ms Macapagal is halfway through her eight-day working visit to the South where she has held a Cabinet meeting and a command conference.

The visit was also scheduled to enable her to assess the military campaign against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. *Christian V. Esguerra*

SOLIMAN



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Tabang Mindanaw turns war-torn village into 'peace sanctuary'

By Volt Contreras

KITES will be ceremonially flown this morning over a Mindanao village which just a few months ago had bombs screaming overhead.

Peace advocates will be "reclaiming" a barangay in Maguindanao province and turning it into a "peace sanctuary" that Moro rebels and the military have pledged never to touch again in their decades-old war.

In rites organized by the multisectoral humanitarian group Tabang Mindanaw, some 4,400 families will start returning to Barangay Inug-Ug, in the town of Pagalungan, one of the areas left in ruins by recent fighting between the military and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

42 sanctuaries

The event is part of the "Sanctuary for Peace" program that Tabang started during the Estrada administration. The group established 42 village-sanctuaries during that period.

Tabang officials led by its honorary chair, former President Corazon Aquino, have expressed hope that this "expansion" of peace sanctuaries would help draw the warring sides back to the negotiating table.

Tabang is in a race against time to decongest some 170 refugee centers still holding almost 240,000 people in various areas in the South.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and Mrs. Aquino are expected to grace the day-long "celebration" in Inug-ug.

According to the printed program, the day's activities will include the ceremonial planting of bamboo stalks and kite-flying to symbolize the restoration of peace.

In a press conference on Tuesday in Makati City, Tabang co-chair Howard Dee said Inug-ug would be added to the 42 barangays earlier declared peace sanctuaries during the Estrada administration.

Dee proudly reported that the peace "still holds" in those 42 villages—15 in Lanao del Sur, four in Maguindanao and 22 in Cotabato.

The 42 sanctuaries now feature 36 demonstration farms and 12 livelihood programs supported by Tabang, he said.

MILF pledge

At the same forum, Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said the MILF pledged to keep its forces away from Inug-ug as early as last month.

He cited a May 31 letter from Mohammad Nur, chief of staff of MILF chair Salamat Hashim, in which the rebel group praised the Tabang sanctuary program as its intended beneficiaries were "mostly our (own) families, clans and good neighbors."

"The assurance we can give is that we will keep our armed presence away from these Sanctuaries of Peace," the letter said.

The CBCP said it received similar assurances from the Armed Forces which is to declare this formally in today's rites.

According to Dee, Inug-ug was the first peace sanctuary to be declared under the Macapagal administration, mainly to address a new refugee crisis stemming from the military's conquest of the MILF's Buliok complex last February.

He said some 240,000 people were crammed in 169 evacuation centers in Mindanao. The evacuees come from 272 barangays from 11 provinces and two cities.

"Conditions are deteriorating in the evacuation centers. We need to do something before the situation becomes a humanitarian disaster of large proportions," he said.

Mrs. Aquino, who also spoke in Tuesday's forum, said the current peace "overtures" being made both by the government and MILF "is an opportune time for Tabang to return the suffering evacuees to their villages."

Appealing to the public to help fund Tabang projects, Mrs. Aquino said the evacuees can hardly enjoy a decent meal as the Tabang budget is overstretched. The budget for its supplemental feeding program, for instance, is only P10 per child aged 5 years and below.

Dee placed at P20,000 the cost of rebuilding one destroyed house in the peace sanctuary. The rebuilding of Inug-og homes will start immediately tomorrow, he said.

Ben Abadiano, project coordinator for Tabang's Integrated Repair and Rehabilitation program, said the repairs may take three months.

'Treasure hunter didn't have permit'

By Volt Contreras

THE NATIONAL Museum yesterday denied issuing a permit to American treasure hunter Phil Greco, who last week told The New York Times how he had retrieved precious Chinese ceramics from 16th-century shipwrecks in the Philippines purportedly with the museum's permission.

"We have checked our records for the last seven years and we can now categorically state that no permit (whatsoever) was issued to Mr. Greco," said John Silva, a museum consultant.

Silva is part of the multi-agency team now investigating how Greco was able to retrieve and ship to the United States some 10,000 Chinese artifacts apparently eluding the scrutiny of Philippine authorities.

Silva said the museum actually had "two encounters" with Greco.

The first was on April 12, 2002, when the museum and the Bureau of Customs impounded a cache of some 1,000 Chinese ceramics then consigned to Greco's Hong Kong-based firm, Stallion Recoveries.

The second encounter took place shortly after the impounding, when Greco himself showed up at the museum to demand the release of the artifacts.

"There was a verbal tussle between him and our employees. Of course we did not allow the release," Silva recalled.

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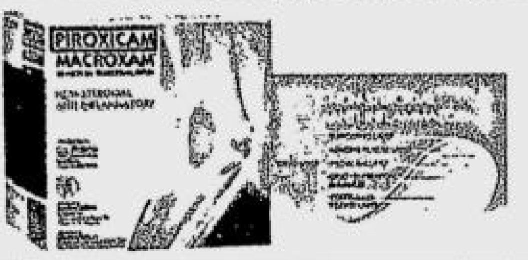

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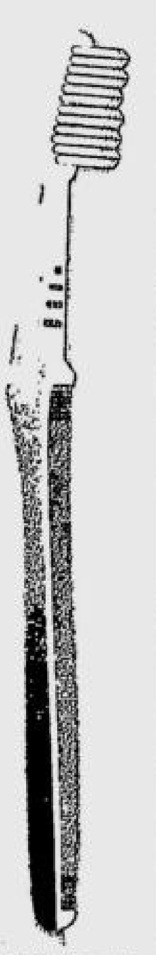

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USCG finds Pinoy fishermen

THE UNITED States Coast Guard (USCG) rescued at dawn on Monday five Filipino fishermen whose boat experienced engine trouble about 313 nautical miles west of the Philippines.

The distressed fishing boat was spotted drifting aimlessly in the Western Pacific by the USS Anchorage and the USS Comstock more than three weeks after its engine broke down.

This information was relayed to the Senate yesterday by Sen. Robert Jaworski, who is in Guam for the Independence Day celebration of the Filipino community there.

He identified the rescued fishermen as Robert Bulig, 33; Sergio Formentera, 49; Ariel Formentera, 14; Rolito Bulig, 20, and Joseph Cuyos, 36.

Another fisherman, who was identified only as "Berto," is said to have starved to death.

The fate of two other companions—Rico Taksan, 20, and a certain Fredo, 61—was not known.

A report by the US Seventh Fleet Public Affairs said the fishermen had set out from Sarangani Bay on May 3. *Michael Lim Ubac*

Lawmaker pushes gov't 'spy network'

By Cynthia D. Balana

AN ADMINISTRATION congressman yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to set up a spy network to check on corrupt and abusive officials and employees of graft-ridden agencies of the government.

Rep. Apolinario Lozada (Negros Occidental) said there was a need to deploy spies and "deep penetration agents" from the Office of the President to monitor the movements of corrupt officials and employees.

Lozada said it was better for the government to identify the corrupt officials before they were exposed in the media. He cited the case of some officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue who were exposed in the media for acquiring questionable wealth, big houses, expensive cars, businesses and other properties.

"Our people have been waiting for a long time to see a high-ranking official put behind bars," Lozada said.

"If the Chief Executive can pay surprise visits to police stations . . ., she can do the same to the graft-ridden agencies," he added.

Among the agencies he recommended be spied upon are the Bureau of Customs, the BIR, the Philippine National Police, and the departments of health, education, agriculture and national defense, and government-owned and controlled corporations.

Lozada lauded the surprise visit of the President to the Land Transportation Office last week.

The visit was prompted by reports by her "spies" of rampant corruption at the LTO, lack of security in the office, and overcharging of fees and equipment. She was also said to have received reports that some employees were incompetent and were mostly gone by 4 p.m.

"This should be a warning to other officials of government. Watch out because the boss is coming to you," Lozada said.

A few days after the President's surprise visit, the LTO came under fire again, this time for allowing the registration of imported used vehicles without the clearances required by the Clean Air Act.

The Senate committee on environment chaired by Sen. Robert Jaworski started this week a formal inquiry into allegations that the LTO, in collusion with the Bureau of Customs in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone, was blatantly violating the law.

The Vehicle Inspection and Testing Corp. (ViTEC), which claims to be the only private entity authorized to issue motor vehicle inspection certificates at the freeport, said the LTO in Subic has refused to comply with the Clean Air Act and has allowed the registration of imported used vehicles without the requisite clearances from ViTEC.

ViTEC, according to its legal counsel, is the only testing center accredited in the area.

It accused Eduardo de Vera, officer in charge of the freeport's LTO offices, of knowingly allowing and facilitating the registration of the vehicles without clearance. It also asked the LTO to recall the questionable registration of the vehicles.

Gordon, 'mother' of 54, is Pearl S. Buck awardee

AMELIA Juico Gordon, "mother" to 54 children left behind by former American servicemen at the former Subic Naval Base, will receive the 2002 Pearl S. Buck International Women of the Year Award on the occasion of Pearl S. Buck International Day on June 14.

Gordon, former assemblywoman and Olongapo City mayor, legally adopted all 54 children, some of whom had been literally left at her doorstep. She also founded Boys Town and Girls Home in Olongapo, which provide care for orphaned Filipino children of American descent, popularly called Amerasians.

Previous Pearl S. Buck Women of the Year awardees include former President Corazon Aquino, former US first lady and now Sen. Hillary Clinton and movie star Audrey Hepburn.

Pearl S. Buck, the first woman to be awarded the Nobel and Pulitzer prizes, founded PSBI, a non-sectarian organization dedicated to the improvement of the quality of life of the disadvantaged and to look out for their educational, social, economic and civil rights.

AMELIA Gordon supervises mealtimes for her 54 "children."

Gordon is the widow of James L. Gordon, former mayor and "father" of Olongapo City. One of their five children is Richard Gordon, first chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and current tourism secretary.

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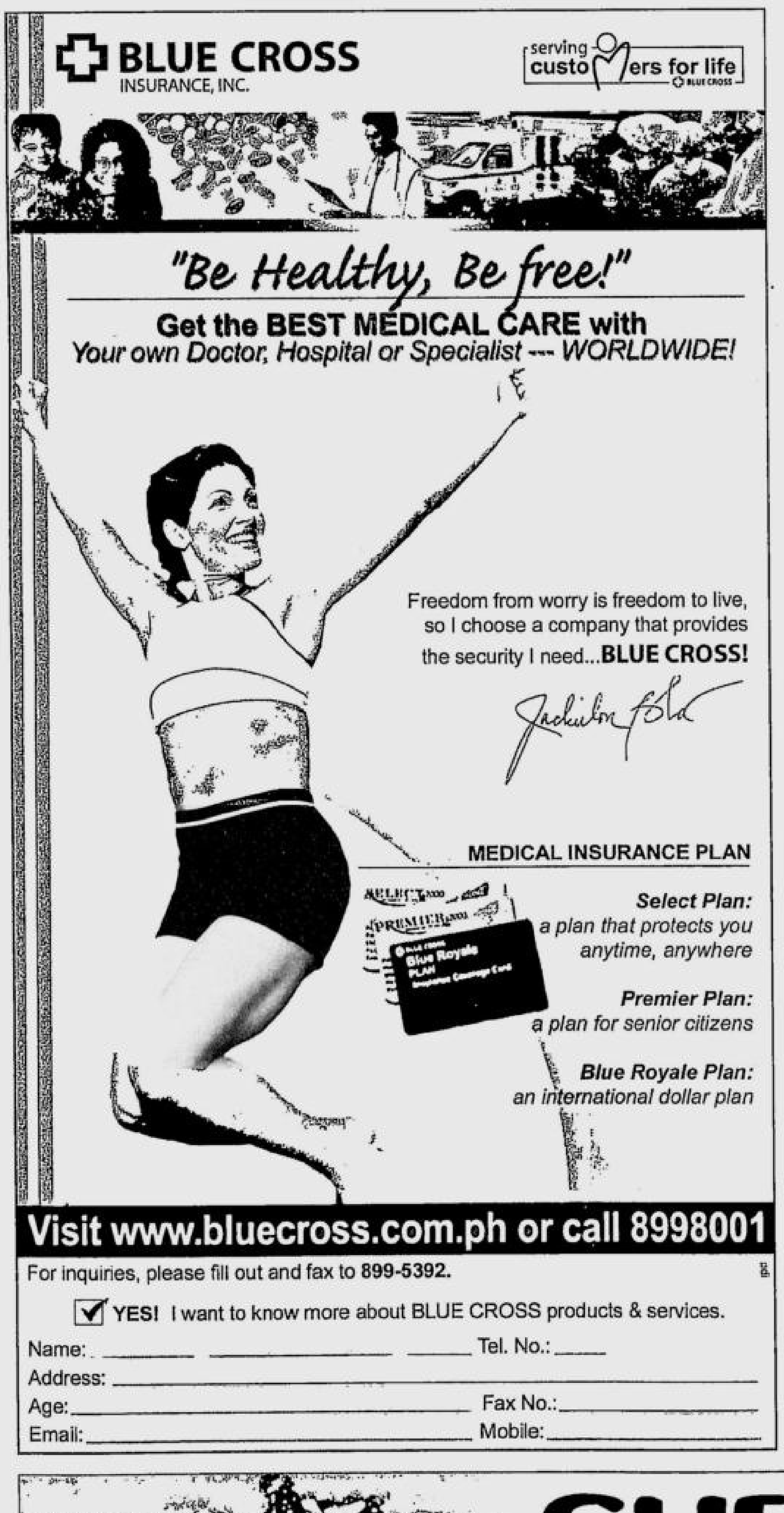
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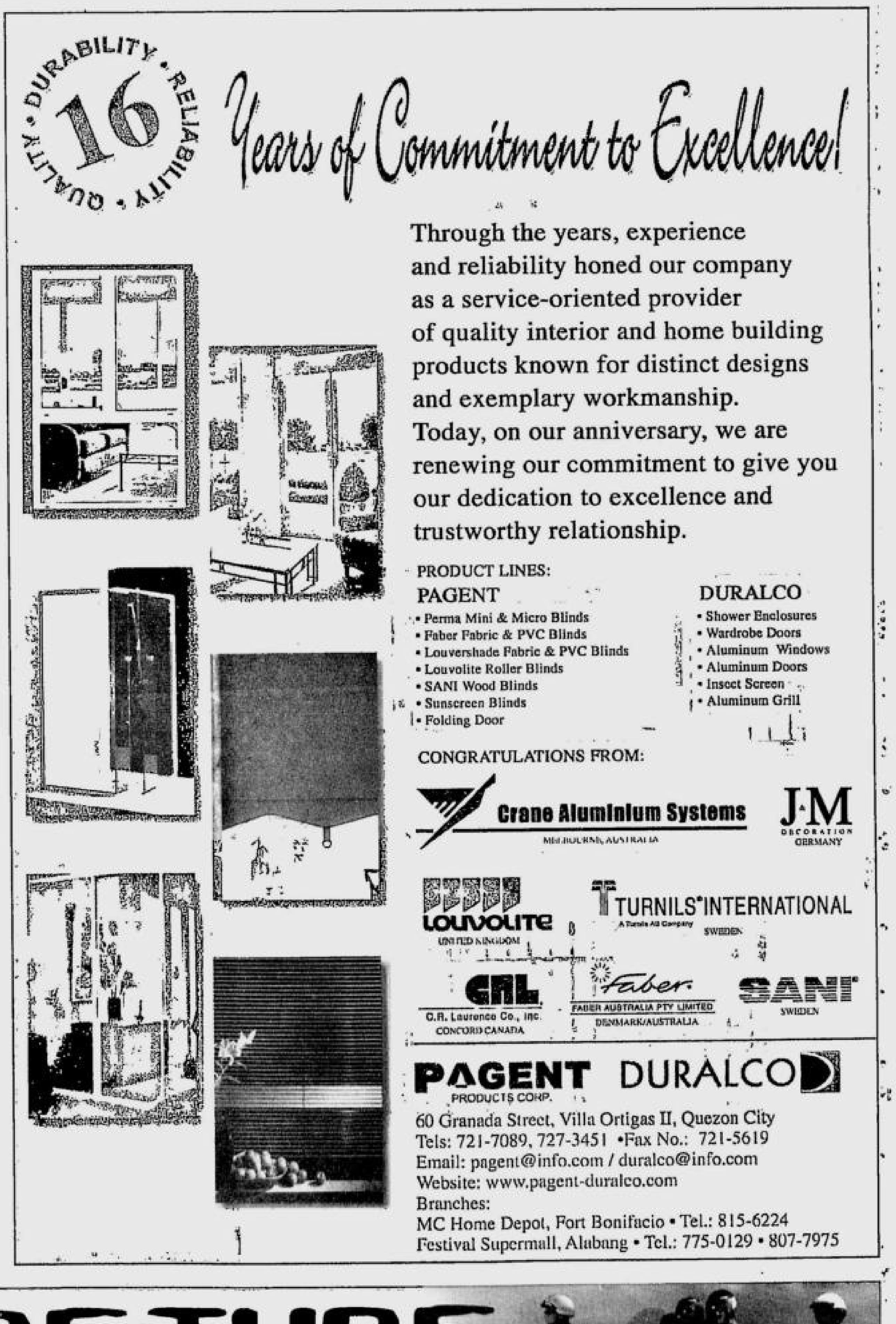
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Activists fear for Mindoro probers' lives

By Norman Bordadora

HUMAN rights groups yesterday expressed concern for the safety of investigators and witnesses in the investigation into the killing of human rights activists Eden Marcellana and Eddie Gumanoy in Mindoro Oriental recently.

The Alliance for the Advancement of People's Rights and the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace yesterday said even Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida, who heads the task force probing the twin killings, has been receiving threats as a result of the investigation.

"There is serious harassment of the witnesses and investigators, the most recent of which was the intimidation of Undersecretary Calida," said Dani Beltran, secretary general of the EMJP, without elaborating.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said Calida himself may become part of the statistics of human rights victims.

Next statistic

"Unless the President reins in her soldiers in the 204th Infrantry Brigade, Undersecretary Calida might become the next statistic in the Karapatan's list of victims of military abuses," said Teddy Casiño, Bayan secretary general.

The principal suspects in the killing of Marcellana and Gumanoy are officers and men of the Army's 204th Infantry Brigade led by Col. Jovito Palparan and MSgt. Donald Caigas. Marcellana and Gumanoy were investigating reports of human rights abuses allegedly committed by the soldiers when they were slain.

"Ms Macapagal should order the Armed Forces to fully cooperate with Calida's task force and not coddle the likes of Colonel Palparan and Sergeant Caigas," Casiño said.

"If the Macapagal administration cannot ensure the protection of its law enforcers like Calida, how can survivors and witnesses of military atrocities be emboldened to come out in the open?" he asked.

'Colonial silver' talk set

CULTURAL researcher and lecturer Martin "Sonny" Tinio will give a talk on "Colonial Silver in the Philippines" at the National Museum tomorrow, June 14.

The lecture, part of the ongoing series of lectures jointly sponsored by the Museum Foundation of the Philippines and the National Museum, will touch on the skills of the Chinese silversmiths who lived in the Parian during the Spanish colonial period.

These Chinese artisans melted down Mexican silver pesos used to pay for goods transported by the Manila galleons to Acapulco and transformed these into household and ecclesiastical silver.

Venue is the Museum of the Filipino People (former Finance building) at Rizal Park at 10 a.m. Registration starts at 9:30.

Call Jing Pascual at 404-26-85, or Cynthia Valdes or Lerma at 842-03-29 for information.

DOJ mum on Dante Tan's whereabouts

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice yesterday said fugitive businessman Dante Tan is not in Singapore, but it knows where he is hiding.

Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez said "official sources" told the DOJ yesterday about Tan's whereabouts, which she was not revealing so as not to jeopardize efforts to bring him back to the Philippines.

"It's better not to divulge where he is so that we could do all we can to bring him back," Gutierrez said.

She said the DOJ will ask the Department of Foreign Affairs if Tan's Philippine passport has been cancelled.

Tan, who is wanted for the biggest insider trading scam in the history of the Philippine Stock Exchange, fled ahead of the ouster in January 2001 of his close friend and crony, former President Joseph Estrada.

He was reported to have gone to Australia where he soon found himself embroiled in an immigration scandal, which forced him to sneak out of that country last June 4.

It was reported that he had flown to Singapore but this could not be confirmed.

Formal representation

Yesterday, Gutierrez said she wanted to clarify that Tan was not in Singapore, and she did not want people to think the government was doing nothing to bring him back.

She said the DOJ is planning to make formal representations with the officials of the country Tan is hiding in for the businessman's repatriation.

"We could ask for his surrender if the law of that country allows it," she said.

After arriving in Australia, Tan was quickly able to obtain a business visa and soon after Australian citizenship in May 2002.

It was later revealed that he had contributed A$10,000 to the political party of Australia's Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock in 2001. Ruddock has denied any impropriety.

The Philippines was about to ask Australia to extradite Tan when the businessman fled that country.

Tan is facing charges before the Pasig City Regional Trial Court in connection with the alleged manipulation of Best World Resources stocks, which nearly caused the collapse of the local stock market in 1999. The court issued three arrest warrants against him.

The scam contributed to the ouster of Estrada, for whose benefit primarily the stock manipulation was allegedly engineered.

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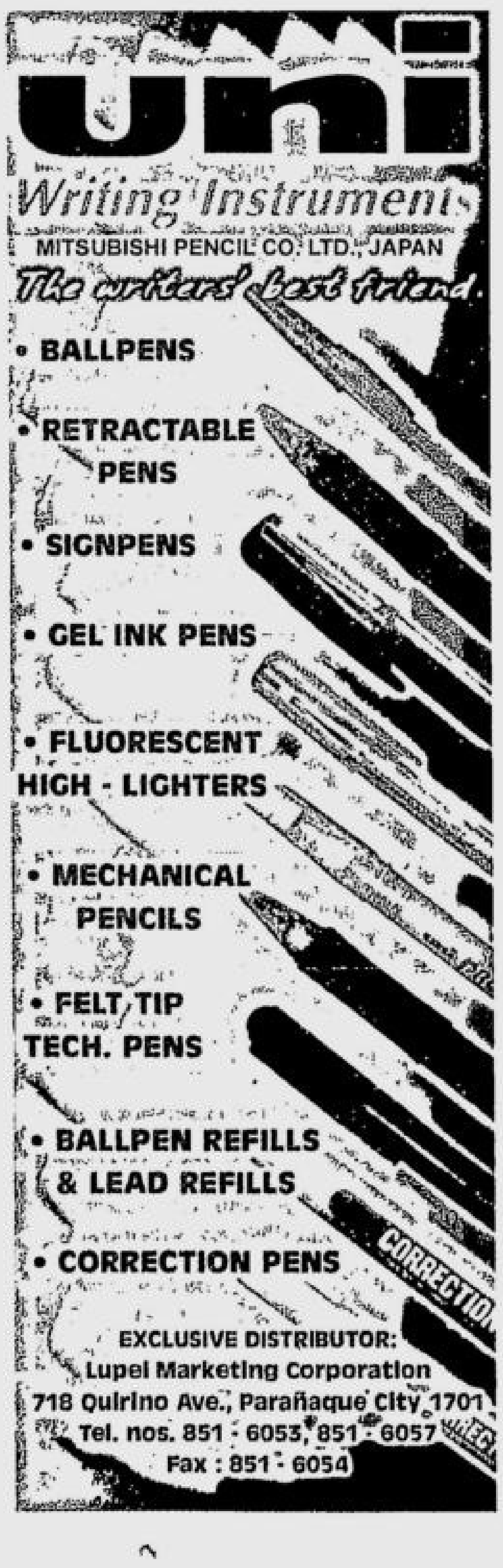

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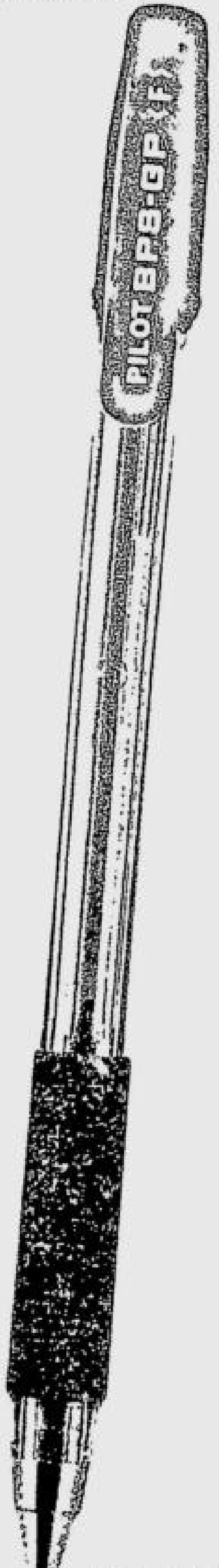

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Ramboanga named chief of peace mission to Iraq

BRIG. GEN. Pedro Ramboanga, head of the Army's 102nd Brigade in Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur, has been named commander of the 175-man Filipino peacekeeping force to Iraq, military officials said yesterday.

Ramboanga was military attaché to Washington DC from 1998 to 2000.

"He knows diplomacy, having been our defense attaché for three years, and he is both an intelligence and operations man," said Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff and spokesperson.

Ramboanga is in Warsaw, Poland, finalizing details of the deployment of the Filipino peacekeepers. The mission will be under the supervision of the Polish general staff, according to officials.

Garcia said the government is sending only 175 peacekeepers, not 500 as announced by Foreign Secretary Blas Ople.

TJ Burgonio

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, June 13, 2003
10th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 Cor 4:7-15
Gospel: Mt 5:27-32

Jesus said to his disciples, "You have heard that it was said: Do not commit adultery. But I tell you this: anyone who looks at a woman to satisfy his lust has in fact already committed adultery with her in his heart.

"So, if your right eye causes you to sin, pull it out and throw it away! It is much better for you to lose a part of your body than to have your whole body thrown into hell. If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away! It is better for you to lose a part of your body than to have your whole body thrown into hell.

"It was also said: anyone who divorces his wife must give her a written notice of divorce. But what I tell you is this: If a man divorces his wife except in the case of unlawful union, he causes her to commit adultery. And the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery."

Commentary

The severity with which we deal with ourselves is only matched by the dignity we possess as children of God. We cannot risk losing that dignity lest we alienate ourselves from God's family and lose our eternal inheritance. It is there we belong. To end up anywhere else will make us strangers, seeking to belong but never accepted, hell. What can be a greater punishment than eternal isolation? To enjoy the Father's eternal love with our brothers and sisters is what we are made for. On the way home, we may be tempted to stain or even lose our dignity. Jesus wants us to be vigilant. He wants us to say no to whatever compromises our identity as children of God. Don't lose that ID!

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (CONSTITUTIONAL LAW)—Searches and seizures—The general rule is that a search may be conducted by law enforcers only on the strength of a search warrant validly issued by a judge as provided in Article III, Section 2 of the 1987 Constitution, thus: "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures of whatever nature and for any purpose shall be inviolable, and no search warrant and warrant of arrest shall issue except upon probable cause to be determined personally by the judge after examination under oath or affirmation of the complainant and the witnesses he may produce, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized." The constitutional guarantee is not a blanket prohibition against all searches and seizures as it operates only against "unreasonable" searches and seizures. Searches and seizures are as a rule unreasonable unless authorized by a validly issued search warrant or warrant of arrest. Thus, the fundamental protection accorded by the search and seizure clause is that between persons and police must stand the protective authority of a magistrate clothed with power to issue or refuse to issue search warrants and warrants of arrest. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Puno, Third Division, People v. Libnao, G.R. No. 136860. Jan. 20]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

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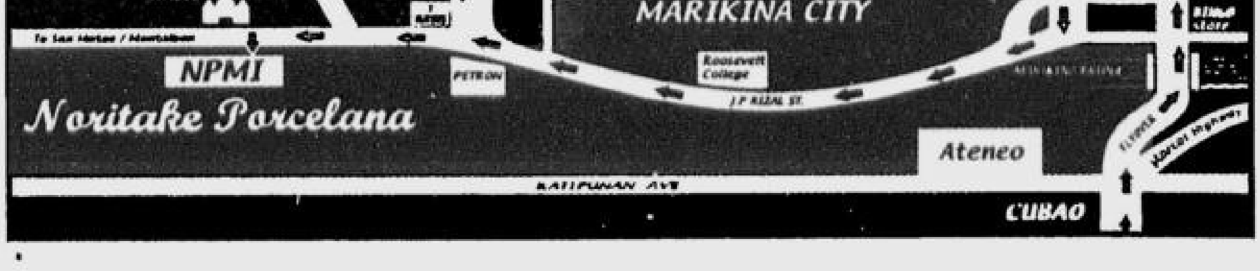

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Founding Chairman

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Leap to peace

EDITORIAL

TWO years ago President Macapagal-Arroyo got as her Independence Day gift the head of American hostage Guillermo Sobero, courtesy of the Abu Sayyaf. On the same occasion yesterday, Ms Macapagal got the gift of a 10-day ceasefire, courtesy of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Of course, the MILF was careful to stress that the gift was really for the people of Mindanao "who have suffered enough," but it must have been welcome news for Ms Macapagal who was in the middle of her six-day swing through Southern Philippines.

At the very least, these contrasting gifts serve to accentuate the big difference between the band of bandits, who have never hesitated to employ terrorism to extort maximum payoffs for their hostages, and the group of Moro secessionists whom the military has been trying mightily to label as a terrorist organization. The latter is one tack the government has since abandoned, with one top official saying it was never seriously considered in the first place. It was one of the few small steps the two sides have taken recently that could lead them back to the negotiating table.

The President's arrival speech in Davao last Tuesday was another step in the same direction. In that speech, Ms Macapagal dropped her hawkish rhetoric and instead declared that the government was "committed to building an enduring peace" in Mindanao. More significantly, she acknowledged that such a peace can be "obtained and preserved through a political solution." Although she stressed that the government must build up its capacity to guarantee compliance with the terms of any political settlement, the road map is unmistakable: peace through negotiations, not a military victory which has eluded the government since the Moro separatist struggle began.

But the prospects of having a negotiated settlement of the conflict would even be brighter if Ms Macapagal would stick to her agreement with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. Last week in Tokyo, the two leaders agreed that to put the peace process back on track, no preconditions should be set for the resumption of the talks brokered by Malaysia. And yet in her Davao speech, Ms Macapagal demanded that the MILF approach the negotiating table with "clean hands by purging its ranks of bombers and murderers." She explained: "We cannot have a principle peace if one side is contaminated with the stigma of terrorism."

This condition could prove to be a huge stumbling block on the way back to negotiations. The "stigma of terrorism" has been stamped by the government not only on minor MILF operatives but its very top leadership, including its chair, Salamat Hashim, and its military chief, Al Haj Murad. Warrants have been issued for their arrest for their alleged involvement in the bombing near the Davao airport. Without them, who will be there left to talk with the government and will they have the authority to bind the MILF rank and file to the terms of an agreement?

Both sides have signified a willingness to talk peace under the auspices of Malaysia and with the help of the United States. Appropriate goodwill gestures have been made with the MILF's declaration of a ceasefire and the government's dropping of its threat to tag the MILF as a terrorist organization. These are meaningful steps toward a negotiated peace. But what the two sides need to do now is take that critical giant leap that would bring them face to face to talk about a peace that will last and finally bring progress to some troubled places in Mindanao.

Crackdown

FOREIGN COMMENT

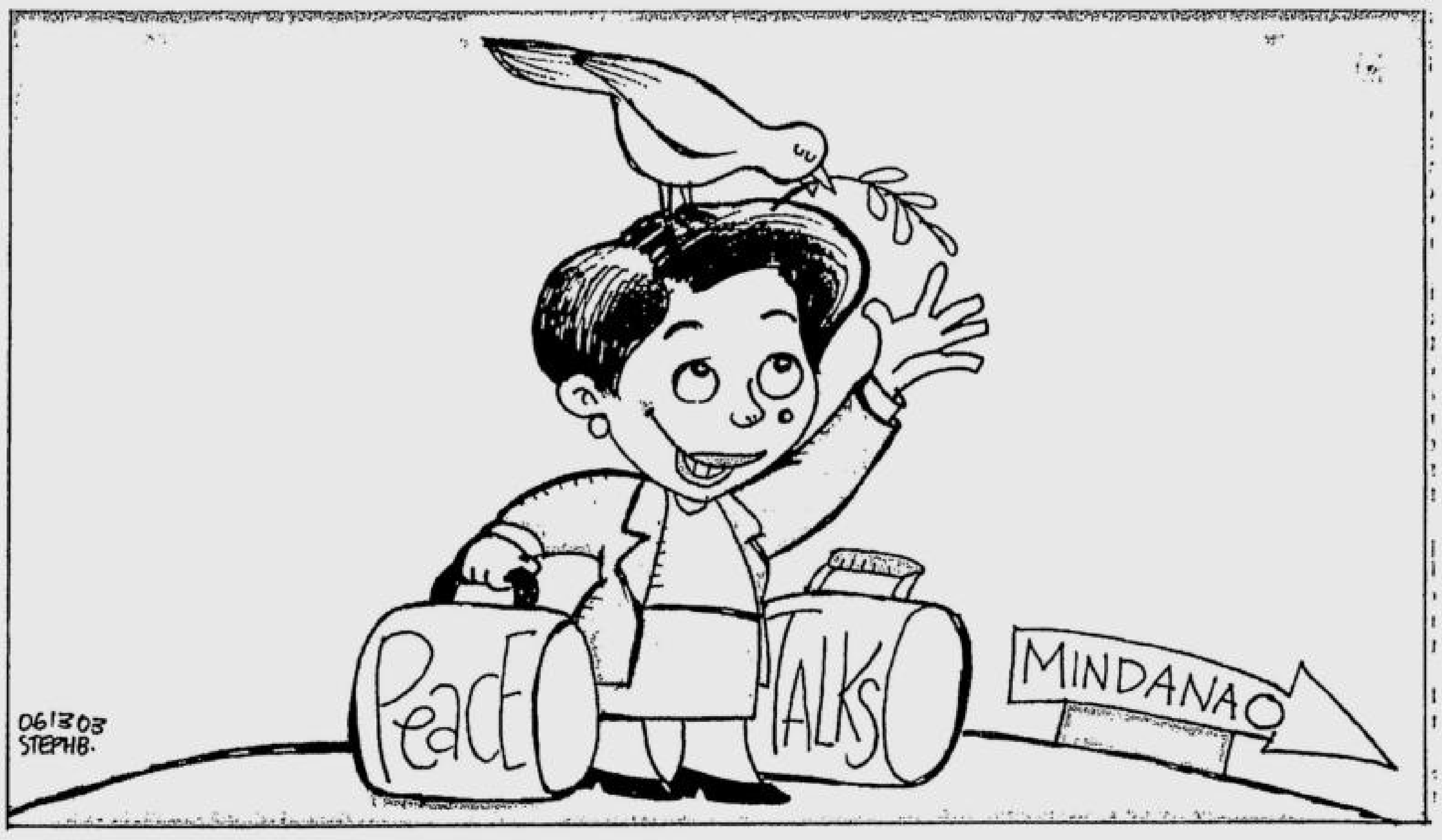
THE DARK days of military crackdown and political subjugation are descending on Myanmar again. This is the conclusion the outside world will draw following the apparent collapse last week of the compact struck a year ago between the ruling junta and the dissident Aung San Suu Kyi, when she was freed after one and a half years of house arrest.

Suu Kyi, the leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD) which eclipsed the generals in a free election in 1990, is effectively back in detention after street disturbances outside the capital were blamed on her. The military authorities call the act "protective custody." Protection from whom?

More pertinent a question might be, protection for whom?

United Nations chief Kofi Annan needs to do better than make concerned noises. He should place the full weight of his office's prestige on getting Yangon to resume a serious dialogue with Suu Kyi.

Straits Times (Singapore)



Nat'l Artist awards scraping barrel's bottom

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

FIVE new National Artists have been chosen and I agree that it looks like we're scraping the bottom of the barrel. The artist Malang has sent a note listing five reasons why the awards should be suspended for the moment:

"1. Because of graft and corruption inside the National Commission for Culture and the Arts awards committee.

"2. Because we are already scraping the bottom of the barrel.

"3. Because all the dead artists are being resurrected.

"4. The awards are becoming a laughingstock.

"5. Because of "*palakasan* in Malacañang."

Malang said the awards can be resumed after a decade or two, depending on the new talents. During the term of Cultural Center of the Philippines Director Deanna Ongpin, Malang said, the art workers voted in a workshop not to give posthumous awards for National Artist.

The judges of the present NCCA National Artist awards are controlled by people with an ax to grind, he said. If you are an enemy to them, even if you are a deserving artist, you have no chance of winning, he said.

"Why did I call nominees 'candidates'?" he asked. "Because the rules require nominations and voting. The candidates and their families and friends have to campaign. If nominated, you have to have an 'attorney' to defend you. What for?"

That's right. Why the need to be nominated by individuals or groups? Don't the judges know who the outstanding artists in their categories are? Artists in the Pulitzer Prizes don't have to submit entries. Everybody is considered; the secretariat does the screening of the finalists. And why do you have to campaign for yourself? If you are the modest type, you'll never win even if you are the best in your field. But the ambitious with a big ego will have himself nominated by family and friends year after year. Campaigning is for political contests, not for artists. Or is the National Artist Award now also a political contest?

And why does an "attorney" have to extol the talents of the artist-candidate? Don't the judges know the comparative abilities and talents of the artists in their respective fields?

To deserve the honor of being called "National Artist," one must be acknowledged by his peers as a giant in his field. The first National Artists were such undisputed greats, like Fernando Amorsolo, Carlos V. Francisco and Vicente Manansala for painting. But as the years went by, the respect for the succeeding "National Artists" became less and less and, in fact, generated controversies and criticisms. So why name National Artists at all if such awards will be questioned and not command any respect at all?

"The recently-announced winners of the National Artist Award is strange," Malang continued. "My name is included among three other artists. All three are dead and two are comic-book cartoonists. I have nothing against cartoonists because i was once a cartoonist myself and was the first to make a daily comic strip in English. But the cartoonists should be given a different award instead of the National Artist Award.

"Assuming cartoonists are included in the awards, why are Tony Velasquez, creator of 'Kenkoy,' and Nonoy Marcelo not included? Both Velasquez and Marcelo are also dead. And why not Hugo Yonzon Jr. another cartoonist-painter, also dead, and a very talented, versatile and prolific artist? Is it because they are not from the University of the Philippines? Is it because they do not have any 'attorney' from UP? It is becoming evident that the NCCA awards committees are controlled by the UP mafia."

Malang said the rules should be changed for the better. He suggested that awardees:

1. Should be chosen by their peers.
2. Must have a body of work.
3. Should have critical acclaim.
4. Must have many other awards.
5. Should have done much community work.

"During one of my interviews," Malang concluded, "I told the writer that I didn't intend to be a painter, neither to be a National Artist."

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: Topic of the Kapihan sa Manila forum next Monday is the controversial drug testing of basketball players, coaches, officials and personnel of the Philippine Basketball Association. Panelists are embattled PBA Commissioner Noli Eala and Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the Senate committee on sports, which is looking into the controversy. Also invited is Sen. Robert Jaworski, himself a basketball star, and the players who have been tested and who may want their side heard.

* * *

Reminder to Philets alumni: Don't forget the grand reunion of the Philets Foundation tomorrow, Saturday, 7 p.m., at the Quezon City Sports Club. Five outstanding Philets will be given special awards, and all the golden jubilarians given gold bars with their names carved on them. There are rumors, just rumors, that an SUV will be raffled off, but I was unable to confirm it.

Victims

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IF I recall right, the first thing Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo did when she came back from the United States was sign into a law a couple of bills strengthening the position of women in the country. But here she comes now asking us to be "fair" to Bishop Tedoro Bacani by not dwelling on the issue. "The best thing we can do now is wait for the result of the Vatican's investigation rather than feasting maliciously on this issue."

One would imagine that GMA's sympathies would lie more with the complainant than the subject of her complaint. She is the one more in need of solace and protection, for being a woman and for being the underdog in this fight. Gabriela is right: No woman naturally complains of being sexually harassed by a priest, let alone a bishop, because of the stigma that attaches to it. Doubly so because it doesn't only turn her into "damaged goods" but into the devil's own, the Temptress that lures God's lieutenants to their doom. You'd think GMA would be more sympathetic to a woman thrown in that plight.

Her exhortation to the public not to rush to judgment would be more believable if she herself was not quick to pass judgment on Acsa Ramirez whom she took to be a criminal rather than a whistle-blower. A mistake she compounded by demanding the NBI exert itself to prove her right. Which of course it didn't. She hasn't apologized to this day.

Waiting for the Vatican to conclude its investigation won't help. The Vatican's capacity for revealing the truth about God's word is matched only by its capacity to hide it about man's word. Its capacity for secrecy is legendary, beating even the Mafia in allegiance to the code of Omerta. The Italian Carabinieri should know: Their investigations into the poisonings of Church officials have not gone an inch past the Palace gates. Its predilection to close ranks to defend St. Peter's legacy has no peer. The faithful may wish to believe that the Vatican is infallible in matters ex cathedra, but they should know the same source is very fallible about sex in the cathedral.

In any case, GMA's admonitions are entirely misdirected. She wants fairness and suspension of judgment she should ask Mike Velarde and the other bishops to desist from making the most idiotic statements about the case.

Velarde's comments are simply breathtaking. He is throwing his unconditional support to Bacani, he says, because the bishop is the victim here. "I firmly believe that Bishop Bacani is telling the truth when he said that he had done nothing wrong against anyone. If ever, it is his openness and availability to help and extend support to someone in need that was maliciously misread."

I don't know how extensive Velarde's and Bacani's relations with women are—I suspect very, but of a kind that has not enabled them to catch a glimpse of women's, or plain human, psychology—but I can assure them women know the difference between demonstrations of solicitousness and affection and violations of body and soul. Women can tell a mile a way whether the hand that reaches out to touch them is supportive or intrusive, not least because the latter tends to land in wrong parts of the body. Velarde insults the entire race of women when he suggests the complainant cannot tell that difference and so infers a malicious meaning from a benign gesture. He insults the entire human race when he says with absolute conviction Bacani is the victim and his accuser the oppressor in this case.

That is not very good advertisement for the kind of things he preaches to his flock.

Even more idiotic are the statements of several high-ranking members of the Catholic hierarchy. He is happy, says Msgr. Jesus Romulo-Ranada, that the priests of the Archdiocese of Manila have written Bacani to express their support for him. One priest in particular, Fr. Meliton Oso, of the Archdiocese of Manila, has said: "It (the accusation) maligned the bishop and hurt the Church." Velarde joins the chorus there. The attacks on Bacani, he says, are attacks on "our Holy Mother Church."

Well, this is not a popularity contest that requires a show of support. No one is after Bacani's job, which may compel his colleagues to express their faith in him. He is not being accused of inability to discharge his obligations, he is being accused of inability to obligate his hands off his charge. That is not a matter for support and solidarity. That is a matter for truth and justice. The Penal Code has something to say about it. If Bacani is found guilty, he may not escape punishment because he is beloved by his fellows.

But more than that, when will people learn that an institution is neither defended nor saved by covering up the truth, or worse, sacrificing the innocent? It's the Dreyfus syndrome all over again, Dreyfus being the innocent French officer who was pilloried to save the honor of the military. We've seen that several times already in this country in recent years.

All these months, the NBI has been trying to find Acsa Ramirez guilty of the crime GMA imputed to her because for GMA to accept her mistake would presumably hurt the credibility of government and the honor of the presidency. In its turn, all these years, the CPP-NPA has been cajoling its followers to forget about the "killing fields," or at least not to breathe a word about it, because not to do so would presumably hurt the credibility of the revolutionary movement and the reputation of its leaders.

Now the Church wants us to dismiss blithely the woman who has protested her violation by a prince of the Church, or at least forget about her completely, because not to do so would presumably hurt the credibility of the clergy and the honor of God.

What can one say? Wasn't it Jesus Christ who said the truth shall set you free?

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Lack of proof on WMD is dangerous for Bush, US

NEWS ANALYSIS

Barry Schweid

Former officials, experts and lawmakers are seeing potential damage for the administration by the failure to find arms

WASHINGTON—Unless the Bush administration takes definitive action to prove its assertions about Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction, it could sacrifice credibility as a leader in future world crises.

As British and US teams continue their as-yet fruitless searches for proof of Iraq's firepower, and President George W. Bush insists there were weapons of mass destruction, some former officials, experts and lawmakers are seeing potential damage for the administration by the failure to find arms.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, national security adviser in the Carter administration, suggested that US officials make an effort to determine whether there are residual weapons in Iraq that were hidden but not used. Also, he said, questions must be answered whether US intelligence agencies were misinformed or had been pressured into making exaggerated claims and "whether the top policymakers knew that they were vastly exaggerating the facts."

"What is clear is that the assertions by our top policymakers, from the president down, to the effect that Iraq was a powerful threat armed with extremely dangerous weapons, was not accurate," Brzezinski said. "American global credibility has been badly hurt."

Similar sentiments were echoed by others who fear for the future accuracy and believability of the United States.

"If you have a doctrine of preemption, which says you can go into a place based on imminent threat, and if the president is serious about that, ... then you really have to be sure that your intelligence is very, very good," Sen. Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, said Tuesday. "And your intelligence has to stand on its own."

Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, said Tuesday that the American people need to know how the intelligence was handled regarding Iraq before they can be asked to trust other intelligence as a basis for future military action.

"The stakes here are huge," Levin said. "It's not just looking backward. It's looking forward to Iran and North Korea and other challenges we are going to face."

Such comments from Democrats often are connected with demands for an investigation of how intelligence was used before the invasion of Iraq. Republicans counter that no evidence of wrongdoing exists and there is no need yet for an inquiry that goes much beyond routine oversight.

Bush has tried to rebut the criticisms by stressing that the main outcome of the war, removal of Saddam from the presidency, was a good thing. "The credibility of this country is based upon our strong desire to make the world more peaceful, and the world is now more peaceful after our decision," the president said Monday.

Leslie Gelb, the current president of the Council on Foreign Relations who previously served in top Pentagon and State Department posts in the administrations of Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson and Jimmy Carter, said he was among those who believed Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and was prepared to use them. But, Gelb said in an interview, it was clear the intelligence backing that up did not amount to a smoking gun.

Sometimes, intelligence agencies can succumb to pressure; it happened during the Cold War, Gelb said. The CIA sometimes exaggerated Soviet military power under political pressure; political leaders sometimes turned carefully worded intelligence statements "into political swords."

In the case of Iraq, Gelb said, "the exaggeration was of greater importance"—it was used for going to war. "There is a difference between what they did in the past and saying they have a nuclear program and are ready to use it," Gelb said.

James Dobbins, a former US envoy to Afghanistan and Kosovo who is now with the Rand think tank, said the administration had several justifications for going to war with Iraq that everyone could agree on. Weapons of mass destruction were not the most prominent reason, he said.

Helmut Sonnenfeldt, a former National Security Council and State Department official, said the Bush administration had "taken a blow" in that people were trying to discredit the military outcome of the war as well as the administration.

"They are trying to paint the administration as a rogue state, in effect," said Sonnenfeldt, now a scholar with the Brookings Institution.

"There is indeed a strong likelihood Iraq planned, manufactured and even stockpiled" weapons of mass destruction.

"The problem with these weapons is that if you wait too long, you may get deterred from doing things, and you can't predict when he may use them," the former US official said.

Still, Sonnenfeldt said, "It's an awkward situation for the administration." *AP*

Don't blame the victim

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SAN FRANCISCO—This is certainly not the time for gloating, much less rejoicing. The kindest thing we can say about the mess in which Bishop Teodoro Bacani finds himself is that it proves he's only human. And that indeed he should be given every chance to prove his innocence. And if he is guilty of sexual harassment, as his secretary of five years alleges, then he should face the consequences, including the possibility of a six-month jail term which the law provides, but only if the victim decides to file a criminal complaint.

Which leads me to wonder: Does the Roman Catholic Church or the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines have a sexual harassment policy and procedure for investigating and acting on complaints? According to the anti-sexual harassment law, institutions and corporations are required to institute policies defining and addressing sexual harassment in the workplace or on campus, including the formation of a committee on "decorum and investigation" which can receive a complaint, investigate the allegations, hear the side of the complainant and the accused, and recommend action.

News reports say the bishop's former secretary and her parents brought up the matter with the Papal Nuncio, who is the Vatican's "ambassador" to the country as well as liaison with the local church. So while a bishop in theory reports directly to Rome, the Nuncio still wields considerable influence in local church affairs through regular reports to the Curia (the Vatican's administrative body). Church sources quoted in the news say the Nuncio has since ordered a "full-blown" investigation of the complaint, but in the meantime, Bishop Bacani is now in the United States to visit his mother and to seek medical treatment.

* * *

IT'S good the Nuncio has chosen to take the woman's complaint seriously, instead of dismissing it outright. Previously, complaints of a sexual nature against bishops and even ordinary clergy were either ignored or swept under the rug, usually by the expedience of paying off the complainant. But it would have been better if the Nuncio or the CBCP had instead convened a committee on decorum and investigation, and while keeping the proceedings confidential, would eventually release the findings and recommendations to the public. This would not only serve to ensure that justice is done and both sides get a fair hearing, but would also meet the minimum requirements of transparency and accountability, values that the Church has espoused and indeed championed.

Bishop Bacani has denied the woman's charges, even if in a letter to the faithful of the Diocese of Novaliches he expressed his deep sorrow "for the consequences of any inappropriate expression of affection to my secretary." So he is sorry for the "consequences" of his inappropriate behavior—including the fact that the woman has publicly complained of it—while denying any such inappropriate behavior took place.

Already, like former US President Bill Clinton insisting on the strictly legal definition of "sex" in denying anything amiss in his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, the bishop's friends are seeking to redefine the word "inappropriate." Bishop Bacani's spokesperson, Msgr. Jesus-Romulo Ranada, notes that "inappropriate is a relative term and its meaning depends on the person involved." Breaking news, monsignor, that's what sexual harassment is all about.

* * *

AT THIS time, while Bishop Bacani has recourse to dodging the sticky questions and uncomfortable scrutiny by flying to the United States, his sympathizers are turning their attention and their ire on the woman.

A parishioner was quoted in this paper as fuming: "If I only knew where I could find her, I would go to her and tell her to shut up and stop making up stories. She doesn't know the consequences of all these." Apparently, the woman's big sin was going public with the alleged instance of sexual harassment, something the bishop hinted at when he regretted the "consequences" of the alleged incident, not the incident itself.

"Blaming the victim" is what Womenlead, a feminist legal and advocacy organization, calls it. "According to Fr. Gerry Tapiador, St. Peter's Church parish priest and Bacani's deputy, Bacani's accuser is a 'whiner, insecure, plain-looking and wears scanty clothes to get attention.' He also added that from his logical understanding (if we could really find logic in it), the victim is just doing all these to compensate for her inadequacies. Her being unmarried at the age of 34, a '*matandang dalaga*,' was also a point raised against her," say Womenlead's Carolina S. Ruiz-Austria and Lara C. Javier.

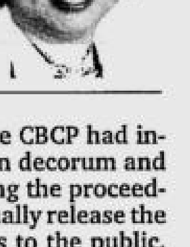
"Yet as of now, what we have heard and read about the victim are just second-hand accounts," they add. "She hasn't given a statement or granted an interview to any reporter. Ironically, it was not her who exposed the controversy to the public, it was the bishop himself.

"As the victim now contemplates the dangers of public exposure, undoubtedly fearing the pressure of becoming the accused instead of the accuser, the Bishop has the full authority and support (plus) resources of the Catholic church to enjoy the luxury of fleeing to the United States until the controversy blows over."

Until the woman's accusations are investigated and the investigation's results are released, we have no way of "judging" either her motivation or the bishop's guilt. But what she did—approaching Church authorities and then a woman's group for support—is far more preferable than one churchman's alternative, which would have been for her to "resolve this through prayer." Some problems do still need human intervention.

Unlearned lessons from the past

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

HISTORIANS deal basically with written texts and thus have a lot of interpretation ahead of them. This is why history can be contentious and, at times, hysterical rather than historical. Two historians work on one document and come up with more than one interpretation. This explains why there are as many histories as there are historians. To have only one way of looking at history signals the death of the profession. That we have many ways of seeing and understanding the past assures me of an honest living.

Long before I took history as a profession, I noticed that teachers assigned either the history written by Gregorio Zaide or Teodoro Agoncillo. It was the same history of the Philippines but our teachers had clear preferences. It was either Zaide or Agoncillo, never both. To pass my courses, I read both and realized early on that the final product of a historian's toil was but one particular version of history, it necessarily excluded other voices, other views. This is why people who use my version of history often lose in school quiz bees but hit the jackpot in TV game shows like "Game KNB," "Weakest Link" and "Who wants to be a Millionaire."

To complicate things further, historians are confronted with conflicting documents from the same event so I once asked the late Teodoro A. Agoncillo how he could tell which was which. Which document spoke the truth? He explained that historical texts were not just read at face value, but placed in the context of the times. Historians interrogate documents asking: why a certain document is written in a particular way, who was its intended recipient, was it a public or private document, what is the value of the information contained there, etc.?

Later, I asked Agoncillo if it was possible for a historian to be objective. He replied that when a historian goes over his material and writes his narrative, he must cut and prune along the way. In the mere selection of sources—what he accepted and what he discarded—he was being subjective. A good historian, he said, was fair rather than objective. When asked the same question today, I explain that if one wanted objective history, one might as well open a telephone directory. Of course, names arranged alphabetically is quite dull, but then that's objectivity for you. Some argue that alphabetical arrangement is arbitrary and enumerate other ways of arranging a phone book like thematic arrangement: Yellow pages, commercial industrial, household, government listings etc. The best way to approach history is to accept that everything we read is but one way of interpreting. That each time we read and re-read history, it opens doors to other meanings.

Apolinario Mabini's letter of resignation addressed to Emilio Aguinaldo, dated May 4, 1899 (parts quoted in my Wednesday column), is naturally taken at face value. However, as read between the lines today, we ask: Was Mabini actually fishing for reappointment? When somebody resigns from the Cabinet today, media comment on the President's reaction—is it accepted or denied? If accepted, is this done "with regret"? Is the person given a new post? We read Aguinaldo's acceptance of Mabini's resignation dated May 7, 1899 in the same way. The worst part of it all was that Aguinaldo entrusted the formation of the new Cabinet with Mabini's rival, the opportunistic turncoat, Pedro Paterno. There were no words of regret to soothe a bruised ego, just a curt note of thanks:

"Please inform also the Secretaries that compose the [outgoing] Cabinet of my gratitude for the services they have rendered to the country. As regards all of them as well as you, I am fully satisfied with the zeal, loyalty and intelligence with which you all have discharged your duties.

"God keep you for many years."

If we are to retranslate the last line, a standard way of ending letters in Spanish, *"Dios guarde a vd. Muchos años,"*, into colloquial Filipino, the same polite flourish can be rendered as follows, *"Sana kunin ka na ni* Lord." I wouldn't be surprised if Paterno drafted this letter. Mabini replied on May 8:

"In expressing our profound gratitude for the kind phrases that you bestowed on us as well as for the confidence that, though undeservedly, you have placed in us, we cannot but acknowledge the political wisdom of your decision, and we fervently wish that it may serve as a means to obtain the general welfare that we all so earnestly desire.

"In cordially congratulating you on this sound policy, we hope that you will kindly relay to the new Cabinet that will be formed and its worthy President our most sincere congratulations for their accession to power and our fervent wish that they attain the right direction and be successful in the management of public affairs.

"We beg you to count, as ever, on our unconditional loyalty and our meager strength in everything that redounds to the welfare of the country.

"Your most obedient servant greets you with the greatest respect and consideration."

Hidden in the politesse was a heavy heart. Ironically, resignation liberated Mabini and allowed him to comment on the way Paterno ruined the affairs of state. That these letters have parallels today, is proof of the sad fact that 105 years from the declaration in Kawit, we have learned little from our past.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Enfeebled United Nations

COMMENTARY

Reynaldo O. Arcilla

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo was right when she branded the United Nations Security Council as "too feeble or hand-tied to be effective at peacemaking." She said this in the course of her speech at the International Conference on the Future of Asia in Tokyo recently.

However, the reason she gave why she thinks the Security Council is feeble was, to put it mildly, a little off-tangent. She said the US-led attack on Iraq on March 20 this year "signified a major blow to the power of the United Nations," thus, implying that the Security Council is weak because it did not authorize the attack.

That's the American line! My goodness *naman*, can we not be pro-US without having to be her mouthpiece, too?

To begin with, no less than UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said that the preemptive strike by the US-led coalition against Iraq undermined and eroded the peacemaking role of the UN Security Council. How? When a member of the council, particularly a veto-wielding one, unilaterally decides to attack another country, that enfeebles the United Nations!

As everyone knows, the US desperately sought Security Council approval for the invasion of Iraq. However, the majority of the other council members demurred because a previous resolution concurred in by the United States itself decreed that UN weapons inspectors must first verify whether or not Iraq had weapons of mass destruction (WMD) before future action would be taken against Iraq. Again, as everyone knows, the United States decided to launch the preemptive strike before the weapons inspectors could finish their job, insisting that Iraq had WMD. Where are those WMD now?

The United States now brandishes the so-called preemptive strike doctrine which it says gives her the right to interfere, in whatever form she may deem appropriate, in the affairs of nations and peoples that, in its view, threaten the welfare and safety of the American people. That will further enfeeble the United Nations!

The UN Security Council has failed many times in its peacemaking mandate mainly because of the veto power given to the five permanent members of the council, namely, China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. To name a few, it failed to get involved in the Suez crisis in 1956 because of the French and British veto; it failed in Vietnam because of the Soviet veto; it has so far failed to resolve, after 50-odd years, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict because of numerous US vetoes.

Let anyone try getting the UN Security Council to approve a resolution that would allow it to intervene in Chechnya. As sure as today will be yesterday tomorrow, Russia will veto it.

As far back as 1954, the late Gen. Carlos P. Romulo, a signatory of the UN Charter, proposed the revision of the charter to strengthen the Security Council's peacemaking role. During one of the debates in the UN Legal Committee on his proposal, the Soviet Union representative chastised Romulo and even accused him of trying to kill the baby he helped deliver.

Nonetheless, as a result of his dogged efforts, the UN General Assembly created in 1975 the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization. Today, there also exists a Working Group tasked to review and revise the charter provisions on the Security Council including the one pertaining to the veto, and to "democratize" the council by increasing its membership to reflect present realities and the number of UN members. Neither of the two bodies has gone far in fulfilling its mandate and is unlikely to in the foreseeable future.

In sum, the United Nations can only be as effective as its members, particularly the five veto-wielding powers in the Security Council, would like it to be.

Then again, experience has shown that the five permanent members of the Security Council will never, at least in our lifetime, allow any amendment to the charter that would dilute, much less eliminate, their veto power. And, you guessed it, any amendment to the charter requires the unanimous agreement of all five!

There is one possible repercussion of the statement of President Macapagal that her advisers apparently failed to impress upon her. It now places in jeopardy the Philippines' election to the Security Council come this fall for a term of two years beginning January 2004.

Although our candidature has already been endorsed by the Asian Group in the United Nations, its members and indeed, the majority of the UN membership, may now be having second thoughts and may well decide to discard the endorsement because of the President's statement. For how can they vote for a country whose leader is the first to criticize the council on the basis of a wrong premise?

The defenders of President Macapagal may well say: "We would be in a better position to help improve the Council." I say, forget it. The United States will be the first to stand in the way of any move to reform the council. Can we afford to take issue with the United States on that?

Reynaldo O. Arcilla is a former Philippine ambassador.

THEY SAID

Changing of minds

"To me, if she changes her mind, that's up to her. She can always run. In fact, most people today do not believe that she will not run. I am one of the few who still believe that she will not run. But I will not take it against her if she changes her mind."

—Sen. Manuel Villar on President Macapagal-Arroyo's right to change her mind and run again in 2004

No bishop's apology

"You only apologize if you have done something wrong. I will not apologize because I did not fabricate what I said."

—Bishop Ramon Villena on his remarks dragging Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. into the "jueteng" controversy in the province

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Long-overdue rehab for Marinduque

WE have been looking forward to the start of the Boac rehabilitation cleanup in Marinduque, the site of the Marcopper mining tragedy in the 1990s. ("DENR says Marinduque river rehab to begin Monday," Christine Gaylican, PDI, 6/8/3) With the team of scientists from the US Geological Survey tasked to study the options for river rehabilitation, plus the presidential funding of P20 million to back up this long overdue project, we cannot but expect concrete and immediate responses to the long unanswered calls of the mining-affected communities of Marinduque.

But though we welcome Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun's seemingly supportive stance to this exercise, we are wary of her stand in support of the National Minerals Policy (NMP) toward the revitalization of the much-beleaguered mining industry. Recall that early this year, President Macapagal-Arroyo and Gozun voiced their unequivocal policy to invigorate the mining industry as part of the administration's economic agenda of attracting foreign investors into the country.

The short-sightedness of past administrations, which allowed partly Canadian-owned Marcopper-Placer Dome to operate in the island of Marinduque for almost 30 years, has led to the environmental devastation and continuing social and ecological ills of its affected communities, particularly in Mogpog, Sta. Cruz and Boac towns. Up to now, the fishing and farming barangays of Mogpog inundated by the collapse of Marcopper's faulty tailings dam in 1993, remain uncompensated for the livelihood and properties they had lost. Not to mention the grave threat to health of the communities in Calancan Bay in Sta. Cruz where children have been tested positive for high levels of metallic content in their bodies. To think that up to this day, these very same people remain exposed to the dangers of the toxic mine waste still flowing through their now contaminated rivers. Much has yet to be done by the Philippine government to truly respond to these much-neglected ills still festering the island province.

That funding would have to come from the presidential social fund also underscores the lack of accountability of foreign companies and the lack of political will of the government to hold them liable in doing unmitigated hazardous activities of extracting resources from our communities. This same short-sightedness is what we seem to glimpse from our present environment secretary who, while readily nodding yes to an elderly belated rehabilitation program, is also opening up the country to further possibilities of devastation by consenting to a policy that easily facilitates the encroachment of mining companies into many of our local communities through the NMP.

Through the NMP, principally espoused by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), more communities are bound to suffer a fate similar to that of the people of Marinduque.

The people of Marinduque, together with the vigilant public, should expect no less for the DENR and the MGB leaders to stop being blind to the lessons bitterly learned from the Marinduque experience of large-scale commercial mining, where corporate unaccountability has left people's livelihood, health, and ecology damaged up to this very day.

—RINA ANGELA CORPUS,
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Turning the accuser into the accused

I WATCHED in dismay as members of the media literally turned the tables on Bishop Teodoro Bacani's accuser and in not so many words, turned her into the accused.

Even as the President herself purported to "wash her hands" of the situation, leaving it to the system of justice, the administration's representatives were quick to point out that criminal charges have not been filed.

I handle cases of women survivors of violence. Many of these cases are sexual violations. It is never easy to come out and make an accusation. Unfortunately, often, the truth has nothing to do with it. Like many other things in this society, the game that the legal system is, is a game of power and influence.

I have seen survivors of sexual violence fear for their lives and the lives of their families and children. Often, filing a criminal case is not the priority of survivors and it isn't surprising. Once in court, the victim usually finds herself the accused, having to demonstrate that the abuse wasn't her fault.

It is very disappointing to note that for all their posturing as crusading journalists, the most insulting commentaries on the character of the bishop's accuser has come from the mouths of these so-called crusaders.

But of course, the accuser is quiet. But of course, she is under attack now by those "close" and even those wanting to be close to the bishop. They have even resorted to quoting a Biblical passage, comparing the bishop with Mary Magdalene! (You have got to be kidding!)

Even as she quietly entrusted her case into the hands of the very church which now coddles her abuser, she is being accused of all sorts of sordid things. Some accusations leveled do not even make sense in any existing principle of law. Yet, they are leveled as accusations.

Her separation pay is being withheld so she won't be able to allege bribery? When did legal entitlements mandated by law ever constitute a bribe or become the equivalent of privilege? She is a *matandang dalaga* (unmarried at 34). What principle of law downgrades an unmarried woman of her age? Do women who do not marry suddenly become less trustworthy?

Yet, how uncommon is her story anyway? The Catholic Church itself has acknowledged the existence of sexual abuse by its clergy. Even the Pope has apologized for the Church's crimes against women, for heaven's sake! *Saang pansitan ba natutulog ang mga periodistang 'yan?*

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The limits of historicism

LETTERS

IT is clear that trained legal minds who read the book, "Reforming the Judiciary" by Justice Artemio V. Panganiban, judged it by its contents. And Chapter 11 of the said book, wittingly or unwittingly, gave the author away. It struck the fuse that agitated lawyers from the opposite side of the political fence to capitalize on its apparent unstated historicism to resurrect an unsettling constitutional question on the legitimacy of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's ascension to the presidency.

Sub-titled, "Saving the Constitutional System," this document is the talk discussed in a symposium by the author and it is not meant to be a full account of the event in Edsa. It is unthinkable that the book was banned as no more copies were reprinted by the Supreme Court Press nor found in book outlets. Why?

The whole chapter is written in plain and clear language understandable to any average reader. It reads as an eyewitness-account or from a first-person point of view as shown in the words used—I, me, my. It did narrate, if briefly, the events of Jan. 16-20, 2001 with a good balance of subjectivity and objectivity—as any historian will.

The quotable text is found in the epilogue which reads thus: "The Court's extraordinary action to resolve an extraordinary situation can only be explained as the work of the Holy Spirit on both of us, and, in fact, on all the key players of Edsa II. It was the same Spirit that animated us to do what we did, not because of conventional human wisdom, but because of faith instilled by the Lord." Trance, hypnosis, spell, reverie, abstraction?

To backtrack a bit, it must be noted that the whole of Chapter 10 has been a reprinting of two articles untouched, one of an article in the INQUIRER titled, "They saved the constitutional system from collapse" and an excerpt from Amando Doronila's masterpiece, "The Fall of Joseph Estrada: The Inside Story." Curiosity demands an answer to the question, why?

Lessons can now be drawn. As much as the diary published in the INQUIRER served as the "authoritative window on the state of mind" of Joseph Estrada, the book now under attack authored by Justice Panganiban, may well serve as just another authoritative window on the state of mind of the judiciary as an institution, or at least in so far as one justice is concerned. Why is this influence too socially contagious? Convergence of ideas?

This book appears to have fueled the moves to impeach the Supreme Court justices. It bears watching if it can make any headway toward a legal forensic of what bullet fatally wounded the earlier president, as if it were. From where I stand, democracy has been under constant siege and the Edsas were nothing more than mere constitutional conspiracies by economic elites.

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Media should be more sensible

SOME newspapers act like immature and unstable adults feasting on whatever sensational news they can banner on their front page. Such is the case happening to Bishop Teodoro Bacani. Poor bishop, he's been prematurely fried in what is clearly a regrettable trial by publicity.

These newspapers even commit the grave mistake of simply dragging the Church into the picture. They could be into unreflecting Church-bashing mode.

We are dismayed that those in the print or broadcast media never throw into the limelight the more scandalous lives of their kind—those whose actions actually wreck families, for instance.

Some newspapermen and radio professionals can be more sensible in their jobs. They have to recover common sense.

—POCH LANDER WILKINS,
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Exchange Road,
Ortigas Center

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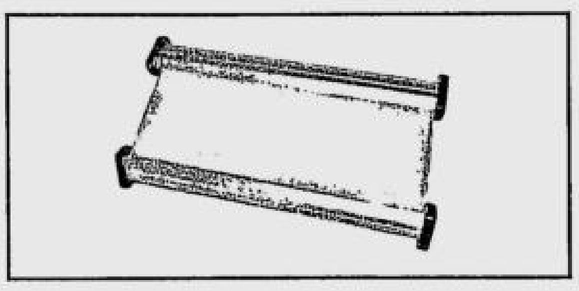

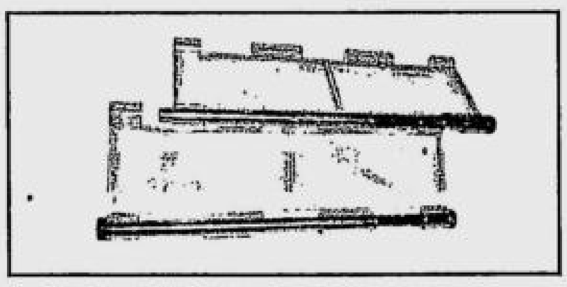

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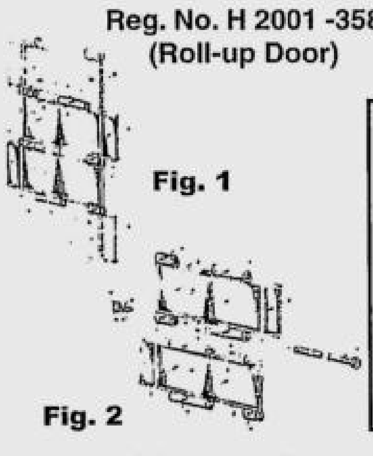

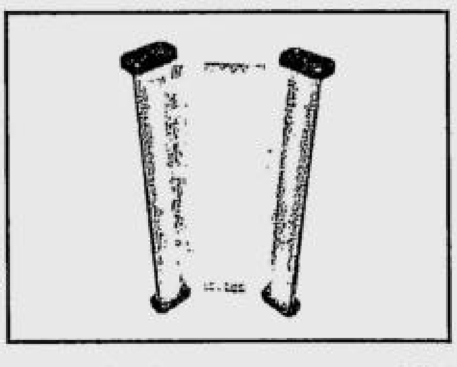

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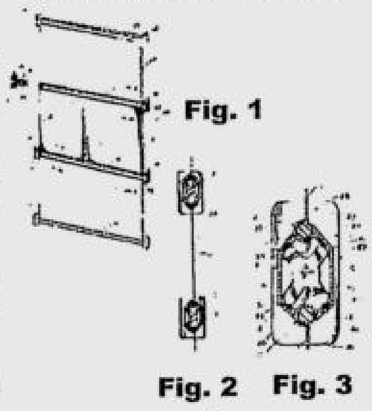

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Value of a mother's work tough to measure

RINA Jimenez-David is partly right. The economic cost to mothers who stay home is high. (PDI, 6/4/03) Fortunately, the real world is not just economics. Consider the following points:

1. Unlike the earnings of a prostitute, a mother's work cannot be estimated in the country's gross domestic product. A mother's work may be measured by the satisfaction she gets and this depends on the amount of love she put behind her work.

2. Rational economic agents look at trade-offs. Is it worthwhile to leave your children in the care of the least competent type of laborer at the lowest pay? There seems to be an economic law governing the raising of children: pay now or pay later.

3. David cited the woes of her friend who lives in the United States. My *ninang*, Luisa Gernz, has more reason to worry. She is a Spaniard based in Germany. She has foregone the income she could have made working as doctor of languages to take care of her seven children. She is managing with the help of her husband, an architect. In economic terms, Luisa has the higher potential to earn more. With much love, she has made the better choice.

—JOSE LEO LEMUEL G. CAPARAS JR.
11 Luis Sianghio St.,
Kamuning, Quezon City

Sex raps and Bishop Bacani

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

BACANI is still innocent until proven guilty. It is still an accusation [of sexual harassment] from his secretary. Judging him based on emotions and suspicions is unfair.—Polo

***

It takes a lot of fortitude for a woman to come forward and speak up about her relationship with a man of the cloth, especially a bishop. This is not a rare occurrence in the Philippines. In fact, it's very common. The problem lies in the cover-up of the Catholic Church. Instead of censuring the priest and helping the woman, they always condemn the woman and label her a liar while the priest is transferred to another parish.

The problem of the Catholic Church is simple: the vow of "celibacy" is the most difficult to follow of the three vows priests make. Priesthood is a vocation, but the rules implemented by the Catholic Church are too rigid for any man to dedicate his life to God. The temptation is there, and that temptation is very strong as priests must interact with the community. A person that chooses to serve God especially through the priesthood, must be very sure his beliefs and convictions are strong; temptations are all around him.

A priest should be allowed to marry, if he wants to. Members of the community must also not condemn a woman who has had a relationship with a priest. Instead, they should help her. There are altar boys who became victims of priests. What happened to that priest in Cebu who molested altar boys? It suddenly disappeared from the news.—leslie

***

Bacani may be innocent, but the secretary should have all the support she needs since it takes a lot of courage to do something like this especially in our society. Kudos to you, miss....—442wel

***

I guess we should also look into the other point of view about this scandal. I for myself can say that this scandal has something to do with [Catholic Church] politics. Let's think about the present situation. Jaime Cardinal Sin is about to retire as archbishop of Manila. Bacani, for all we know, is the one next in line to him.—torpedong

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

27 killed in attacks in Jerusalem, Gaza City

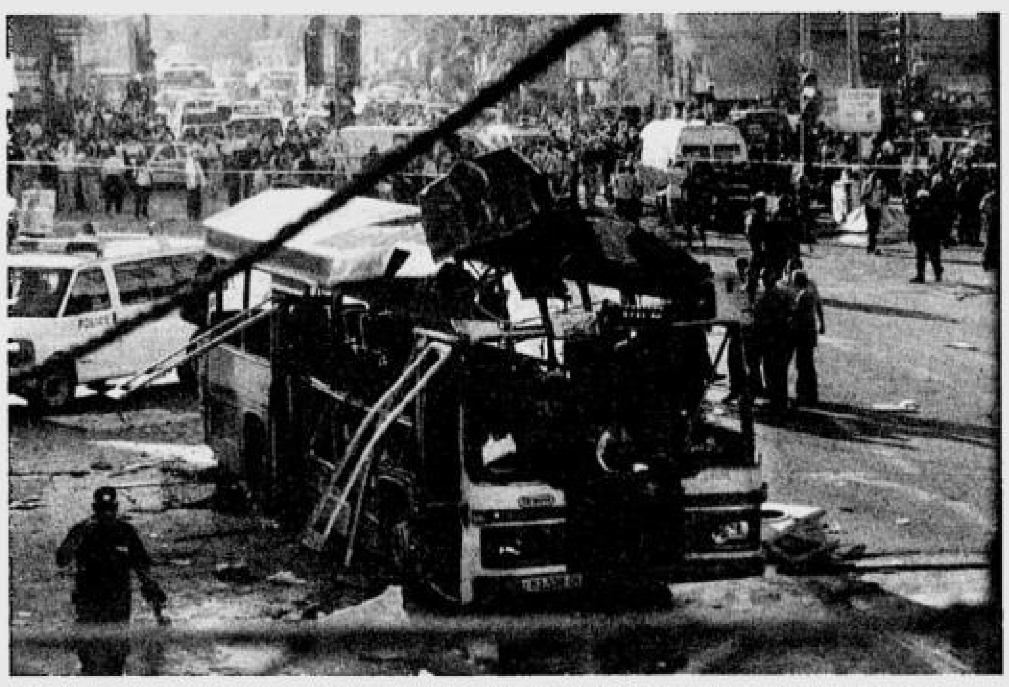
JERUSALEM—Israeli helicopters struck in Gaza City early Thursday, killing three men—the second air assault within a few hours—and a teenage suicide bomber blew up a bus in Jerusalem, attacks that left 27 people dead, dozens wounded and a week-old Mideast peace plan in danger of collapse.

Twisted wreckage and broken bodies were the grisly outcome of the three attacks. In downtown Jerusalem, a bomber from the violent Islamic Hamas killed himself and 16 other people in a huge blast that lifted the heavy bus off the street, while in Gaza City, in two air strikes, Israeli helicopter missiles blasted two cars, killing nine people, including four militants.

The familiar pattern of attack, retaliation, attack wrested attention from the "road map" plan, designed to end 32 months of violence and solve the Israel-Palestinian conflict with a formula of two states living side by side in peace.

US President George W. Bush, who just a week ago launched the road map plan and now was watching its chances of success diminish by the hour, angrily condemned the bus bombing and urged all nations to cut off financial assistance to terrorists and "isolate those who hate so much that they are willing to kill."

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, shunted aside in recent weeks in a US peace effort, moved back to center stage, summoning reporters and reading a tough statement calling on all Palestinian factions to cease fire, condemning the attacks in both Jerusalem and Gaza and pleading for international intervention to rescue the newborn road map plan.



ISRAELI police walk in front of a bus destroyed in a Palestinian suicide attack in Jerusalem June 11. Sixteen people were killed when a Hebron student blew up a bus on Jaffa Street in west Jerusalem.

AFP

Arafat said the factions must "put the Palestinian national interest as a first priority and not to give Israel a chance to drag us into destroying the peace process."

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon declared that though he is committed to a diplomatic process leading to peace, his army would pursue violent Palestinian groups "to the bitter end."

Left behind was Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, promoted by Israel and the US as a replacement for Arafat. His position has been badly weakened by the spiraling violence, burying his efforts to persuade Palestinian militants to halt attacks against Israelis instead of ordering a crackdown.

Abbas issued a statement appealing for "a full commitment from all parties to a cease-fire, to stop violence and to immediately move into a serious implementation of road map." A hospitalized Hamas leader rejected the truce call.

Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz called high-level consultations late Wednesday, and Israel Radio reported afterward that the focus of Israel's battle would be the infrastructure of Hamas.

AP

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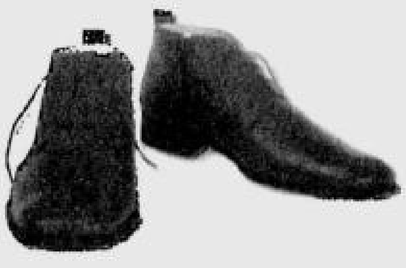

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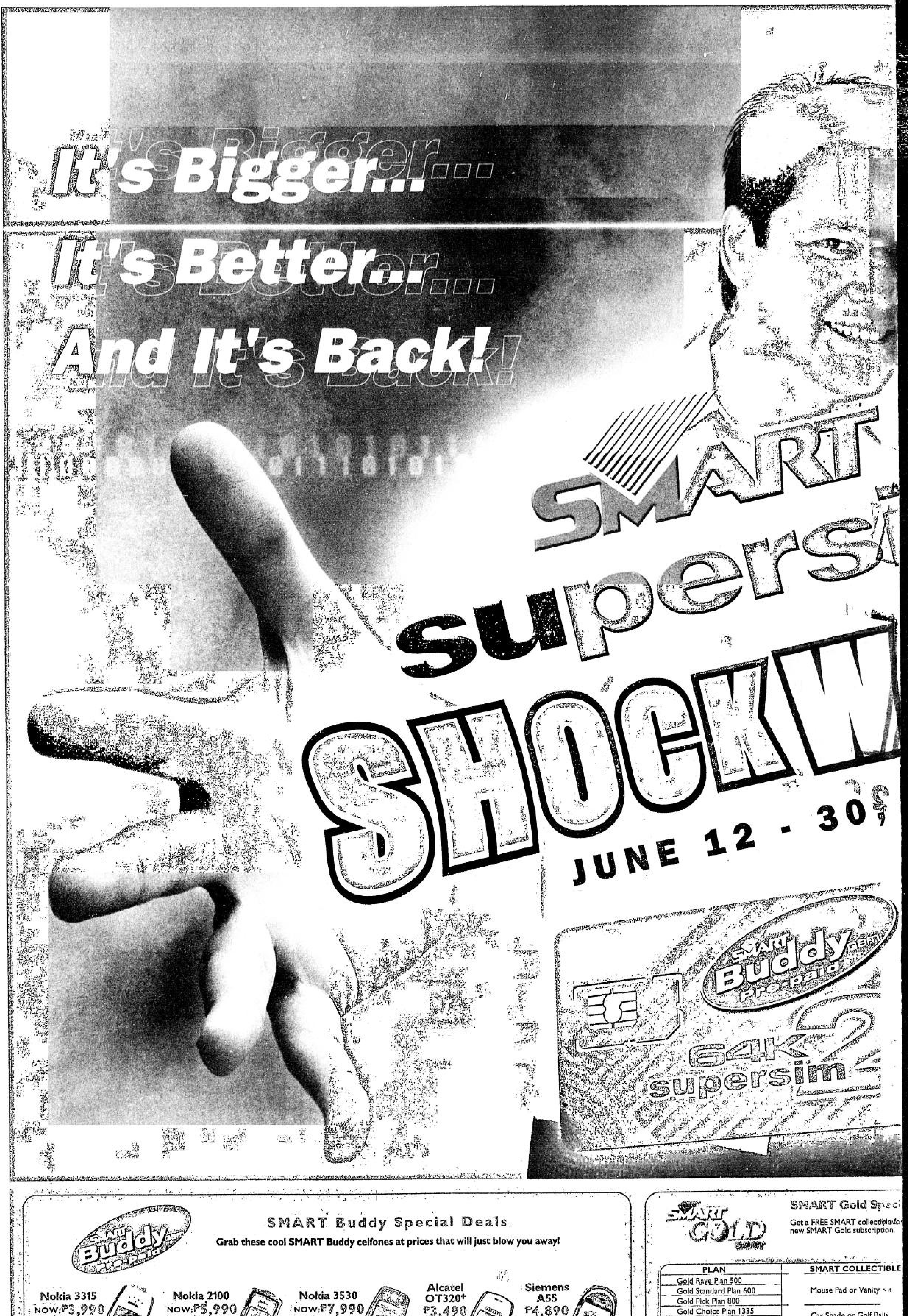

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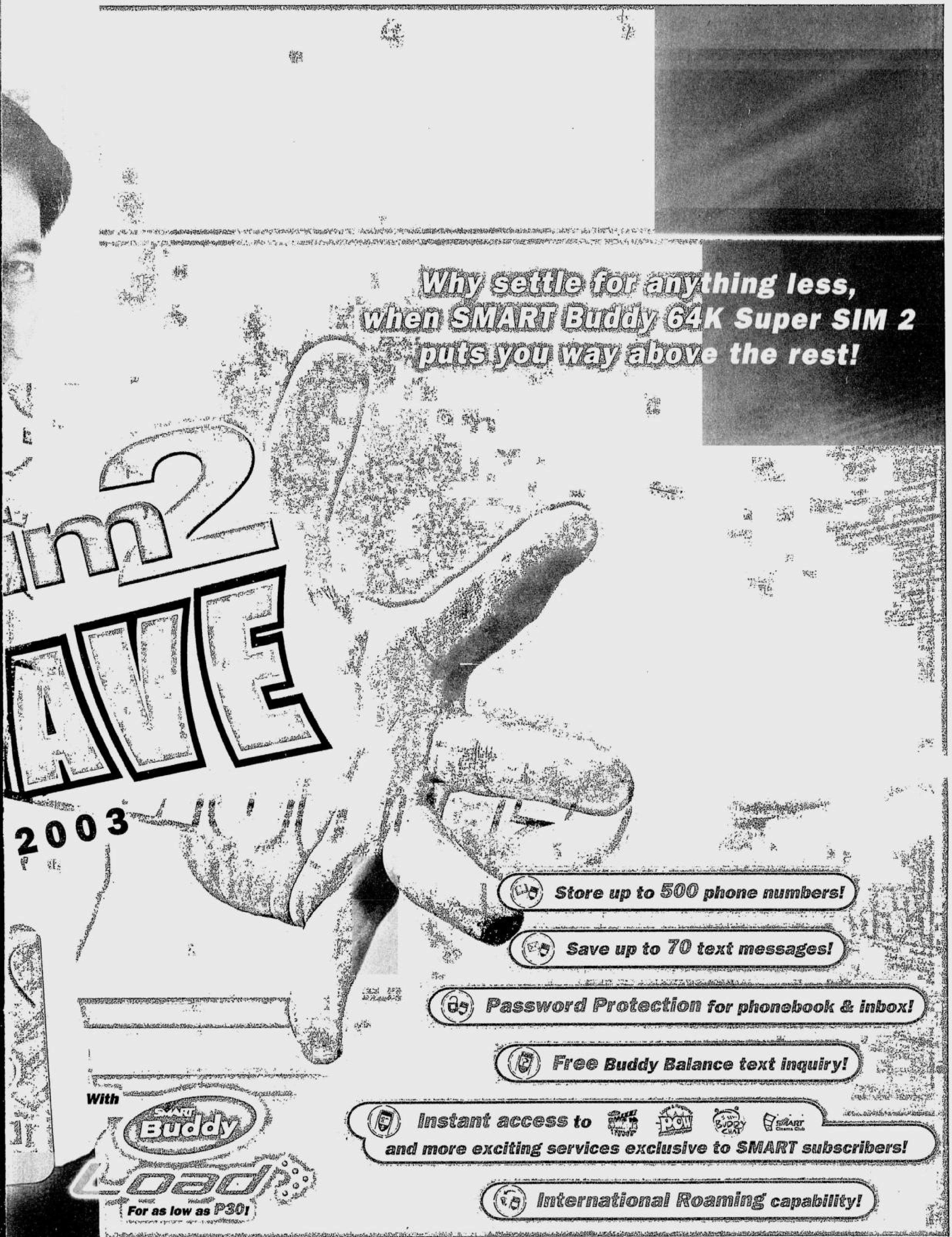

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May 30, 2003

Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
PRESIDENT - REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Malacañang

Dear Madame President:

We are 'tianggeros' or individual merchants who operate stalls in flea markets or 'tiangges' in Harrison Plaza, Robinsons Galleria, Eastwood City, Greenhills, Starmall, Filinvest Festival Mall, Ever Gotesco, Riverbanks and other less organized centers. Most of us are from the provinces, have sold our land, houses, and livestock just to have a humble capital enough to come to Manila and find means to survive in tiangges. Some of us are retrenched company employees, former government employees, retirees, rebel returnees from Mindanao and simple people who borrow money to buy the merchandise we sell. We are mostly people who due to the economic crisis have found meager means to survive through the tiangge. We now come to your office to ask for your help and protection.

Revenue Regulation 16-2003 was implemented on 'tianggeros'. It is a regulation that imposes a presumptive income tax, which is required to be paid in advance, at a rate that was arbitrarily and oppressively set, on persons arbitrarily distinguished from the public. The BIR's recent Revenue Regulation 16-2003 threatens our existence as small retailers. It is not correct to assume that the Tiangge business is highly profitable, specially nowadays, with fewer customers due to the economic crisis, declining margins due to competition and increased costs such as rental and labor, a good number of us are barely able to survive.

Madame President, Revenue Regulation 16-2003 is illegal and should be abolished for the following reasons:

1. There was no consultation – The BIR did not consult with us tianggeros on how we are best taxed. We are good tax payers and have nothing against paying taxes. However, taxes should not be oppressive and arbitrary. We can cooperate with the BIR for a more just, equitable, and feasible tax program.

2. It violates the principle of equal protection of the laws – Only tiangges that have seasonal stalls are being targeted. The law defines tiangges or "privilege stores" which are to be taxed as seasonal exhibits or stalls and exempts from the said regulation fixed stalls. There is no substantial distinction between fixed/permanent and seasonal stalls for tax purposes for the very reason that both fixed and seasonal stall owners/businesses are registered tax payers. The RR 16-2003 makes an arbitrary distinction based on the duration of the tiangge.

3. It violates the prohibition against double taxation – Tianggeros are already paying EVAT through their lessors, and have been paying individual and company income taxes to the BIR under the Nation Internal Revenue Code. Through RR 16-03, the BIR seeks to tax the same tax payers the same income tax and the same EVAT, for the same period and activities, twice.

4. The regulation is oppressive – RR 16-2003 imposes a presumed income tax. Our capital is sourced mostly from loans, separation benefits from our former employers, incentives for returnees or small savings. There are times that the sales for a day is not sufficient and fall below the minimum wage. The additional tax will literally kill us by depriving us of much needed livelihood.

5. It violates our right to property without due process of law – RR 16-2003 requires us to advance taxes on income that has not yet been and may never be earned. As we stated earlier, a lot of us make very little if nothing at all from our tiangge operations The economic crisis, the SARS scare, and the peace & order problem have all contributed to making the tiangge business very marginal and even unprofitable. Madame President, we already feel we live in an unjust society. Please do not make it any more unbearable by taking away the small amount that we make.

6. About two-thirds of Tianggeros borrow heavily from financiers to support their operations. The cost of borrowing can be as much as 10% per month. The regulation will require us to get more loans and pay more interest. Many more unemployed will be added as a result to the millions this country already has. Most of us may just return to our provinces, islands, hills, mountains and live our difficult lives and become a burden to the government.

7. We are little fish Madame President, the BIR is oppressing us while the bigger taxpayers are cheating the government and the people.

Madame President, there are better ways to make revenues that our government needs. Please do not let the BIR oppress the small citizens of this country. We are already providing our share to the economy by providing employment and a means of livelihood. Madame President, we sincerely believe implementing RR 16-03 will only result to unemployment and increased poverty incidence. Please do not kill our entrepreneurial spirit.

Please Madame President, we respectfully ask for the abolition of RR 16-2003.

Camid Adiong
Rolly Bantolang
Ceazar Maranda
Heintjie Panotolan
Abdulwahab Sani
Armano Dirampaten
Abdel Alonto
Zenaida Dida-agun
Faisal Ibrahim
Hadji Asum
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Karim Panumpang
Abulkhair Bandrang
Snooky Batua
Jamel Lawi
Mila Batua
Rocaya Inidal
Masideng Salic
Basher Azis
Dianoding Dimaarig
Pacasum Sarigala
Saidee Macapasir
Rashid Batua
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Nail Alos
Aldee Sarip
Inidal Wahab
Sohaili Abangon
Mylene Abraham
Lantong Samsodin
Mila Pundato
Nihara Nuska
Mamintal Nuska
Abdullah Bayabao
Danny Natangcop
Inoray Hadji Azis
Raihana Yunos
Abdulwahab Mipanga
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Alex Ibrahim
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Salvador Alangadi
Florencio III Aparte
Tapnain Bayabao
Nafisah Inidal
Agakhan Guro
Mamintal Macadaag
Bairona Maunga
Modayao Sacar
Dibansa Guro
Sahawi Bongcarawan
Jamela Alangadi
Norjana Dimaocor
Noha Madid
Abdulmajed Baraocor
Noraida Saudagar
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Norlyn Madid
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Republicans block Iraq intel manipulation probe

WASHINGTON—The Republican majority in the US Congress refused Wednesday to establish a special commission to investigate allegations that intelligence reports on Iraqi weapons of mass destruction may have been manipulated to justify the war.

The Republicans justified their position by saying the probe, which has been demanded by opposition Democrats, would be used to politicize the problem and use ahead of the 2004 presidential elections.

More than eight weeks since the ouster of Iraqi president Saddam Hussein, the US military is still to find suspected Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, which have been used by the administration of President George W. Bush as the primary rationale for war.

Moreover, CIA representatives have recently anonymously stated to the press that they had felt pressure on the part of the Bush administration to present an analysis of the Iraqi threat that it wanted to see.

Republican Sen. Pat Roberts, who heads the Senate Intelligence Committee, said he would not allow the committee "to be politicized or to be used as an unwitting tool for any political strategies."

"About the question of an official, joint investigation: it's very premature," Roberts told a joint press conference with Representative Porter Goss of Florida and John Warner, chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Roberts said criticism of the work of US intelligence services would create "divisiveness" with the intelligence committee and the US Department of Defense.

And before any official inquiry was launched, the various committees in charge of supervising intelligence gathering activities would investigate and interview witnesses, he said.

"When the committee deems it appropriate we will make whatever public statements that are necessary," he said.

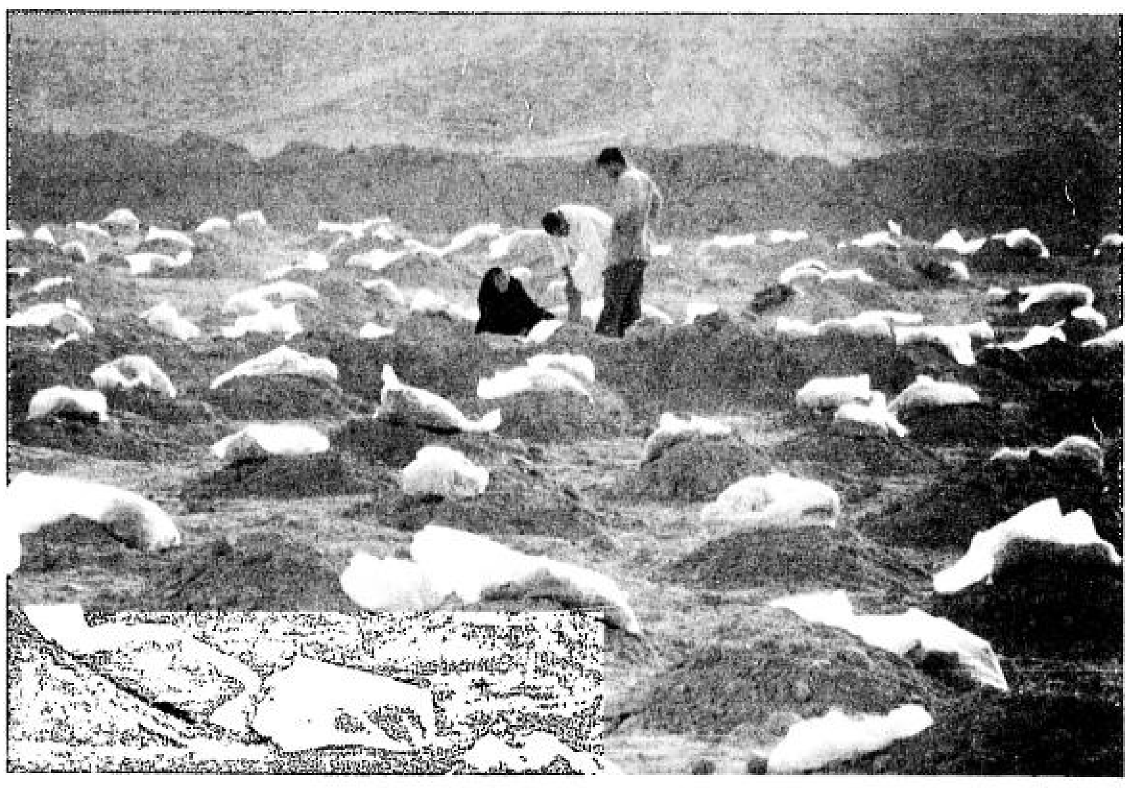
The Senate Intelligence Committee begins closed-door hearings into the matter next week while the Armed Services Committee has already help three meeting.

The Senate Armed Services Committee's top Democrat, Carl Levin, and top Democrat on the Intelligence Committee John Rockefeller have called for a more official investigation, jointly by the committees of both houses and followed up by the publication of a report.

"You need a structure for an inquiry: what is it we're looking for?" Levin said.

He said the hearings' proceedings should be made public as soon as possible.

According to Levin, the credibility of US intelligence services was at stake. *AFP*



HATHIMA Hamza Jo'Ma and her two sons search from grave to grave for an identifying piece of clothing that might help her locate her son Nasser Hussein Mahdi, who went missing in 1991, at a mass grave site in the Iraqi town of Hilla, June 8. AP

Iraqi sites damaged by post-war looting

WASHINGTON—Some of Iraq's more important ancient sites have been badly damaged by post-war looting and thousands of items are still missing from Baghdad's Iraq Museum, leading US archeologists said on Wednesday.

The archeologists, who carried out a survey for the National Geographic Society in Iraq, said while US bombs had avoided hitting Iraq's treasures, many archeological gems had fallen victim to thieves and illegal digging.

The US military was doing its best to protect many important sites but the scientists said some places they visited in May were unguarded.

"Several important sites have been badly looted and remained unguarded while we were there," said survey leader Henry Wright, curator of near eastern archeology at the University of Michigan's Museum of Anthropology.

"What we are seeing now is extraordinary damage being wreaked, even as we speak, on this irreplaceable cultural resource," said Wright in a conference call.

Wright and his team, which included Iraqi experts, visited several dozen historical sites in Baghdad and northern and southern Iraq last month.

Little archeological work had been done in key parts of Iraq and Wright said much of the history still lay in the ground, making it even more important to protect the sites.

"Protecting these places for future research at this very vulnerable time is crucial if we are to have any hope of understanding the fundamental processes that gave rise to the earliest civilizations," he added.

Once ancient Mesopotamia, Iraq is considered the "crucible of civilization" by many. It is the birthplace of the written word as well as of complex agriculture, written laws and organized religion. Archeology also reveals the first cluster of cities arose in lower Mesopotamia in around 3500 BC.

The US military was criticized worldwide for not doing enough to protect Iraq's cultural heritage from looters, a claim the Bush administration says has been exaggerated. *Reuters*

SARS outbreak nearing end—WHO

MANILA—The World Health Organization said on Thursday the outbreak of the deadly SARS virus may be nearing an end after about 8,435 cases worldwide.

Hitoshi Oshitani, the WHO's regional adviser on communicable disease surveillance and response, said Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) was on the wane in China—the epicenter of the disease that has killed 789 people around the globe.

"In terms of the number of cases, we are seeing the end of the outbreak," Oshitani told reporters in Manila. "We do believe the outbreak is under control in China . . . not completely under control in Taiwan."

Oshitani said seven cases were reported on Wednesday—one in China, one in Canada, one in Taiwan and four in the United States.

Taiwan, which has the third-highest number of SARS infections and victims after China and Hong Kong, reported two new cases on Thursday.

But it was the 12th straight day that new infections remained below five, as a fresh hospital outbreak late last week appeared to be contained.

Taiwan had hoped the WHO would revise its travel warning on Tuesday, but local health officials said the Geneva-based organization had requested more information from the island.

Elizabeth Miranda, a medical officer in the same WHO unit as Oshitani, said development of a SARS vaccine was "a few years away." *Reuters*

Smallpox vaccine for monkeypox exposure urged

CHICAGO—US health authorities on Wednesday recommended smallpox vaccinations for anyone exposed to "monkeypox" either from infected pets or from the roughly 63 human cases, all but one in the US Midwest.

The US government also banned the importation or trade of African rodents, including Gambian rats believed to be the original source of the smallpox-like illness previously unseen in the Western Hemisphere, said David Fleming, deputy director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

"I'm confident that everything that can be done is being done to prevent the spread of this virus," Fleming told reporters, citing efforts to track down and euthanize infected animals.

A similar ban was placed on the sale and transportation of prairie dogs, a rodent native to the US Great Plains, that the African rats are believed to have infected and which in turn transmitted the virus to humans through bites or scratches.

The source of the illness was believed to be a shipment of Gambian rats from Africa to Texas that later infected captured prairie dogs. Both species are part of a growing trade in so-called exotic pets through networks that health authorities have found difficult to track down.

Infected animals

Some infected animals were sold to an Illinois distributor, and the virus has been spread to pet shops, pet brokers and pet owners via formal and informal sales in Wisconsin, Indiana and Illinois. The affected states quickly declared bans on trade in one or both of the species.

State health departments have reported 29 confirmed or suspected human cases in Indiana, 21 in Wisconsin, 12 in Illinois and one sickened boy in New Jersey who apparently contracted the illness on a recent visit to the Midwest.

There is no treatment for monkeypox, which usually runs its course within two weeks after causing flu-like symptoms and pus-filled blisters on the body. There has been no evidence to date of human-to-human transmission in the United States, although it does occur in Africa.

"The current outbreak of monkeypox in humans has the potential to pose a threat to public health in the United States," Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said.

While monkeypox is not as harmful as smallpox, authorities fear a sickened animal, which displays cold-like symptoms such as a runny nose and eyes plus a rash, might escape or be discarded into the wild and spread the virus to squirrels or other species. One pet rabbit exposed to a prairie dog was infected.

The smallpox vaccine has been found to be roughly 85 percent effective in warding off monkeypox in humans, which kills between one percent and 10 percent of its victims in the rain forests of central and western Africa, Fleming said.

The CDC recommended that local public health authorities vaccinate health investigators, veterinary staff, relatives of monkeypox victims and others who believed they were exposed to the virus as long as two weeks ago. *Reuters*

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MANALO SA DENGUEra!

Malupit ang Dengue mosquito. Umaatake ito ng walang kamalay-malay ang magiging biktima, lumilipad ng mababa para hindi mapansin, at kumakagat mula sa likod para 'di mapigil.

Gaano man kabagsik ang Dengue mosquito, may kahinaan rin ito. Isang malinis ng kapaligiran. Siguraduhing walang nakatiwangwang na tubig mula bubong hanggang bakuran para wala silang matirahan.

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‘Struggle for freedom started here’

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—On Miranda and Sto. Entierro Streets in the commercial district of this city stands a mansion rendered out of place by the unremitting growing urban landscape.

Closed most days of the year by its current occupant, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the mansion—known to old folks as the Pamintuan residence—juts out like a remnant of a past lost to the changes and worries of the current times.

Understandably secured for its function now to the government treasury agency, the historical significance of the mansion is kept, unintentionally shut like a dusting book.

On any day, it is only a marker installed on an adobe column that tells this house became the general headquarters of Filipino revolutionary forces, the seat of the first Philippine Republic and a residential palace. "The struggle for freedom happened here," said Jose Paras Jr. of the Kuliat Foundation Inc. and curator of the Museo Ning Angeles. Gen. Antonio Luna chose the residence of Don Florentino Pamintuan as his headquarters in April 1899.

Line of defense

"It was here where General Luna structured the most formidable defense line against the Americans, the Angeles-Magalang (Pampanga) line to last till the eventual collapse of the Aguinaldo government (in January 1901)," said local historians Dr. Evangelina Lacson and Dr. Juliet Mallari in an unpublished book on Kapampangan history.

The newspaper La Independencia was prepared and edited by Luna in a room downstairs, said Kuliat Foundation trustee Daniel Dizon, citing first-hand accounts of his paternal and maternal grandfathers who served in the brigades of Generals Servillano Aquino and Tomas Mascardo.

By May that same year, the local historians said the house became the seat of the First Republic and the presidential palace when Aguinaldo moved the capital from Nueva Ecija to Angeles.

Here, too, Aguinaldo led the celebration of the first anniversary of the declaration of Philippine independence in Kawit, Cavite, on June 12, 1898.

Two young generals Gregorio del Pilar of Bulacan and Manuel Tinio of Nueva Ecija led the Army parade. Paras believed that rite could have been the first and the last anniversary of the Republic after its Army and leaders were relentlessly pursued by American forces.

Rare occasion

On Thursday, on the 105th anniversary of the declaration of Philippine independence, the Bangko Sentral opened the Pamintuan mansion for the foundation's reenactment of the first anniversary.

The reenactment was first performed on June 12, 1999, the centennial of the declaration's first anniversary.

Like the initial rite, one of the actors from the Holy Angel University's Paragon Art Guild playing the part of Aguinaldo recited the same speech delivered from the upper floor, on the same fully opened window where the general was said to have waved the original flag sewn in Hong Kong and raised during the June 12, 1898 Kawit rites.

For the reenactment, the 73-year-old Dizon donned the *rayadillo* (uniform) of his grandfather Capitan Jose Dizon, complete with the original emblems, badge and buttons.

For the occasion, Dizon also composed a map showing the defense lines Luna and the military leaders established to protect Angeles and Pampanga from advancing American troops.

As early as 1968, Dizon had done a painting on the June 12, 1899 event based on the stories of his grandfathers and old folks in the city.

Bank to the rescue

Dizon and Paras said the Bangko Sentral had done a "great job" in preserving and maintaining the historic house. The bank in 1976 came to the rescue of Dizon, Josel Suarez and several Angeleños with the city's cultural and historical committee in their bid to save the house from dilapidation and a plan sale by the Pamintuan heirs.

Don Florentino Pamintuan evacuated his family to Manila after giving the house for use by the Philippine Republic, Dizon recalled.

After the Filipino-American war, Maj. Gen. Arthur MacArthur used it as headquarters until 1901.

The committee's rescue efforts proved to be circuitous but fast.

By Dizon's account, it went this way: Suarez brought the cause to Don Rebecco Panlilio, scion of a family that established Pampanga Sugar Development Co. Panlilio asked help from the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos. Marcos referred Panlilio to the National Historical Institute's Esteban de Ocampo.

De Ocampo, in turn, sought help from Jaime Laya whom Dizon described as "an advocate of preservation." Paras said the then Central Bank spent P25 million to buy the lot and to restore the mansion.

According to Paras, the heirs, including the Tablante family, donated the house. Ado Escudero assisted in the restoration work.

Grand museum

To date, Paras said the original grandeur of the mansion, built in European style, is retained. Only the adjacent garden, spanning a little less than a hectare and Italian in design, was excluded from the restoration work. Paras said the foundation and the city government had asked the Bangko Sentral to allow them to convert the house, now a government property, into a museum.

A museum, he explained, was necessary to help the public, especially the youth, "acquire a historical sense of the past fraught with struggle for freedom and independence."

"It's about our identity and heritage," he added. It is also about the bid to not let local history remain on the fringes.

Paras and Dizon spoke of their misgivings about the lack of recognition for the events that transpired at the Pamintuan mansion in relation to the observance of Philippine Independence Day.

HISTORIC MANSION. Unknown to many, the Pamintuan residence in Angeles City became the general headquarters and seat of the first Philippine Republic a year after Philippine independence was declared in Kawit, Cavite on June 12, 1898. The first republic's first and only celebration of that declaration happened in this mansion. TONETTE T. OREJAS

First RP flag all but ignored in rites

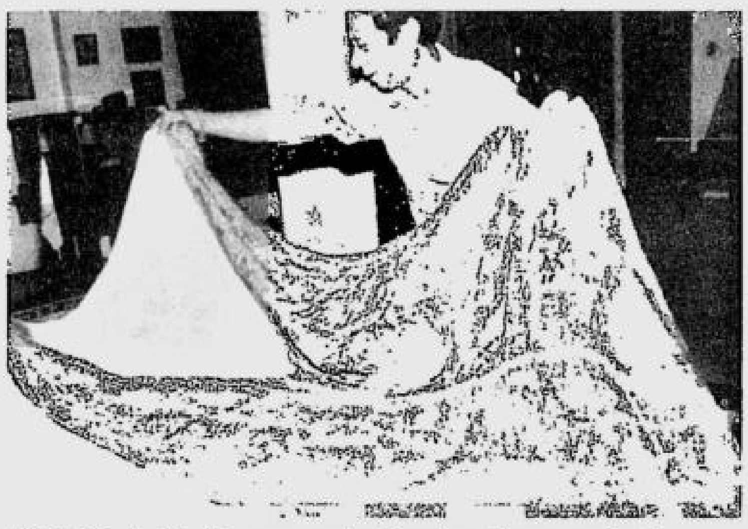
By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The city commemorated the country's 105th Independence Day minus its most important historical relic—the first Philippine flag that Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo's heirs had been storing here since the hero's death.

City officials last year told the INQUIRER that the government had made plans to give the flag its long-overdue recognition.

But City Hall proceeded with its traditional parade and ceremonial program without including the Aguinaldo museum or making any fresh reference to the original Philippine flag.

The Emilio Aguinaldo Museum displayed the first flag, which Aguinaldo had kept for years, but only four people showed up to view the relic on Thursday.



EMILIO Aguinaldo Museum curator Francisco Alonso readies the original Philippine flag used by Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo in Kawit, Cavite, handling it with utmost care and reverence. TOOTS SOBERANO

Francisco Alonso, the curator, said the flag's credibility remains blemished in official records because neither Malacañang nor the National Historical Institute had granted the flag a formal acknowledgement as a historical artifact.

The museum is being financed by the Aguinaldo-Suntay Foundation, which is being run by the hero's great grandchildren.

They have started displaying the first flag on June 12, 1998, the country's centennial celebration, and have maintained this open-house policy in the last six years.

Before 1998, the family had maintained an almost paranoiac vigil over the relic.

Emilio Aguinaldo Suntay III, the foundation's 37-year-old chair, told the INQUIRER in 2001 that the artifact had been the family's most prized possession.

Ironically, he said, its value had been lost to historians, drawn into a political battle over the original flag.

Suntay said historians have been divided on the make-up of the first flag, after previous presidents prescribed the design parameters of the contemporary Philippine banner.

Soldiers overrun NPA training camp in Negros; families flee

By Alex V. Pal and Kathy I. Navarro
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—About 25 families fled their homes on Tuesday morning following a heavy firefight between government troops and communist rebels in a hinterland village of Guihulngan, Negros Oriental.

The families moved to a public elementary school in Barangay Balugo to avoid being caught in the crossfire between Army soldiers belonging to the 11th Infantry Battalion and New People's Army (NPA) members.

The soldiers overran a suspected NPA training camp, said Guihulngan Mayor Cesar Macalua.

Macalua said the evacuees might return to their homes on Thursday afternoon after the soldiers have finished mopping up operations.

About 30 soldiers led by 2nd Lt. Christopher Sumbiling went to Sitio Amaga in Balugo, Guihulngan, about 116 km north of the city, after they were tipped off by civilians about the presence of an NPA camp in the area. Balugo is close to the boundary of Guihulngan and Isabela towns.

Two soldiers were slightly wounded in the 45-minute gun battle, which started around 7:30 a.m.

The Armed Forces Central Command (Centcom) based in Cebu identified them as Pfc Ricky Cadungon and Pfc Pedro Picto. They were brought to the Luz Sikatuna Community Hospital in nearby Isabela town, Negros Occidental, according to Lt. Col. Ruby Bongabong, Centcom spokesperson.

Although there was no report of rebel casualties, the Centcom said blood stains were seen in the area where the rebels were believed to have escaped.

Col. Gregorio Fajardo, commanding officer of the 11th IB based in La Carlota City, told local reporters that the guerrillas left behind M-60 machine gun bullets, a generator set and a typewriter.

He said the training camp had huts, which were converted into classrooms and used by about 30 communist guerrillas.

Scout Rangers and additional troops from the 11th IB later arrived to scour the area and conduct pursuit operations.

23 suspended Ecija teachers win reprieve

CABANATUAN CITY—The 23 teachers of a high school in Gapan City who were suspended for nine months for holding a rally and noise barrage against the principal in 2001 won a reprieve after their suspension was deferred by the Department of Education.

"[The teachers of the Juan R. Liwag Memorial High School] will [be teaching starting] the opening of regular classes this coming Monday," said Dr. Luzminda Pelayo, superintendent of the newly created city schools division of Gapan.

Substitute teachers were supposed to take the place of the suspended teachers but the hiring of substitutes was put on hold pending the release of a confirmation order from the DepEd on the suspension.

The suspension was supposed to start last June 9 and end on March 8, 2004. The teachers appealed their case before Education Undersecretary for Legal Affairs Jose Luis Martin Gascon, who ordered the deferment.

The Central Luzon office of the DepEd ordered the teachers' suspension after they investigated the administrative complaint filed by Sofronio Lamson, the former JRLMHS principal.

Lamson filed the complaint two weeks after the 23 teachers led the prayer-rally and noise barrage and initiated the "Resign Lamson Movement" on March 7 and 8, 2001.

Lamson claimed that the teachers' action disrupted classes and described this as "conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service." He said the teachers pictured him as "abusive, autocratic, corrupt and physically unfit" to lead the school.

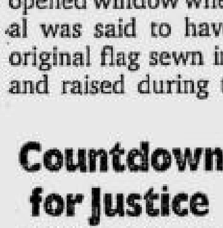
Lamson denied the accusations, saying the reforms that he instituted during his term were meant to improve the school.

In their recent decision, Dinah Mindo, DepEd regional director, and the agency's hearing officers said the teachers staged a "strike" and deprived students of educational services.

The decision said the teachers' claim that they were only exercising their constitutional rights to self-expression and academic freedom was a "misplaced application of the law."

Lamson said he was surprised why the suspension order had to be subject to confirmation and why the teachers were even allowed to continue serving. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT IS exactly 396 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Grenade blast mars election of co-op officers

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A grenade explosion marred the election of officers of a multimillion-peso agrarian cooperative in nearby Polomolok, South Cotabato on Thursday.

Police were still trying to determine the motive and identity of the perpetrators.

The explosion took place around 2 a.m. inside one of the classrooms of the Polomolok Central Elementary School, where the election of new officers of the Dolefil Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperative Inc. (Darbci) was to be held six hours later.

No one was reported hurt and the incident failed to scare away members of the 7,511-strong cooperative.

The members have been clamoring for transparency in all the business dealings and transactions of the cooperative.

In a special general assembly held on May 25, they ousted the officers of the cooperative, led by former chair Danilo Tomenlaco, for alleged irregularities. They declared all positions vacant and called for the election of new officers.

The members accused Tomenlaco and his group of entering into questionable transactions without prior approval of the general assembly.

The former officers reportedly failed to submit a report on how the funds of the cooperative, which was among the largest and richest in the country, had been spent.

Created in 1988, the cooperative has since received more than P700 million in land rentals from the multinational pineapple firm Dole Philippines (Dolefil).

Under the auspices of the 1998 Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, the Darbci became owner of the more than 7,000 hectares of land leased by the National Development Corp. to Dolefil.

On Tuesday, two days before the scheduled election, an ousted officer of the cooperative reportedly slapped a member inside the heavily guarded Darbci office at the Cannery Site in Polomolok while furnishing the group of Tomenlaco with the audit notice.

The same officer allegedly pointed his gun at Jose Teruel, president of the Amado-Kadena-Naflu-KMU, the local union at Dolefil. Teruel was among the members who have been pushing for a change in leadership within the cooperative.

The Darbci failed to hold an election in 2000 following a legal dispute between its members and officers. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Ilocos hospital chief relieved

By Gia Damaso-Dumo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit has relieved the acting chief of the Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center (ITRMC), pending an investigation into the latter's alleged involvement in the anomalous purchase of medicines "for private use but made in the name of the hospital."

Dayrit designated Dr. Eduardo Janairo, Department of Health regional director, as the ITRMC officer in charge "effective immediately."

Janairo replaced Dr. Gilbert de Leon, former ITRMC laboratory department head, whose appointment as acting chief of hospital expired in December last year.

The directive came barely five weeks after 60 medical specialists and nursing staff members of the ITRMC petitioned Dayrit to relieve De Leon for alleged involvement in graft and corruption and "gross managerial incompetence."

The complainants alleged that De Leon was involved in the irregular purchase of medicines worth at least P5 million between October and November 2002 from a single drug supplier that operates a warehouse in Dagupan City.

The transactions were made using ITRMC purchase order forms, but the drugs were not actually received by the hospital's supply office, they said.

De Leon, in an earlier interview, called the complaint part of a "smear campaign" launched against him for being in a "coveted position" as the hospital's OIC.

Calling himself the "No. 1 graft buster and government guardian" in the hospital, De Leon said he initiated an investigation late last year into an alleged forgery of his signature used in a drug purchase order amounting to P1.3 million, which he subsequently canceled.

The complainants also claimed that De Leon did not possess the minimum qualifications for the position of chief of hospital and had committed various other irregularities affecting other departments since he assumed office in February 2002.

They claimed he had "mishandled" the hospital's Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) program.

Janairo told the INQUIRER that he had endorsed the complaint to the office of Health Undersecretary Alexander Padilla, "in charge of investigations within the department."

Janairo said he had set several meetings with the hospital staff within the week to orient them on the "new hospital," which he described as "home-like, with smiling (staff members) serving people and explaining to clients and their relatives everything they need to know."

"I see it as a challenge to look into the operations and institute changes as I see fit, but I will first have to address the crisis [in the hospital administration]," he said.

He said he would give priority to the planned "corporatization" of the hospital, its SARS program, and upgrading its facilities and equipment.

He would also address major complaints concerning hospital services and management and settle problems on hospital staff relations.

Malacañang dismisses local gov't regional exec

LEGAZPI CITY—About three years after becoming the target of a complaint lodged by her employees, the regional director of the Bureau of Local Government Finance based here has been ordered dismissed by the Office of the President for grave misconduct.

Lawyer Veronica Bombase-King's dismissal was recommended by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission after reviewing the evidence presented by the complainants, who were represented by their legal officer Absalom Jocom.

The order, dated May 29, 2003, was signed by Manuel B. Gaite, acting deputy executive secretary for legal affairs.

King also forfeited all her financial benefits and was disqualified from government service. She assumed office as officer in charge in 1995 and became director in 1999.

The official was not available for comment and has not yet reported for duty.

On Aug. 29, 2000, 11 employees, led by Allen Aga, filed the complaint against King before the then Presidential Commission Against Graft and Corruption.

A bureau employee, who requested anonymity, said King reported irregularly for work, thus affecting office operations.

King has filed a libel suit against the complainants. The case is still pending before the Regional Trial Court Branch 61 in Naga City. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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'RP to lose if GMA doesn't run in 2004 polls'

From page A1

The international firm lowered Manila's long-term foreign currency rating by a rung to "BB" from "BB plus," saying "current and prospective fiscal trends amount to a material deterioration in sovereign creditworthiness" despite the government's higher tax collection and lower budget deficit so far this year.

Fitch also downgraded Manila's long-term local currency rating to "BB plus" from "BBB minus."

But Fitch changed the outlook on both Manila's local and foreign currency ratings to "stable" from "negative," reflecting the firm's view that "broader macroeconomic trends remain favorable with respect to growth, inflation and the external current account."

Even so, a lower credit rating means the government will have to pay higher interest for its new dollar and peso borrowings.

Put another way, Fitch is telling international lenders the Philippine government would not be considered such a high credit risk if Ms Macapagal were to continue occupying its top post beyond 2004.

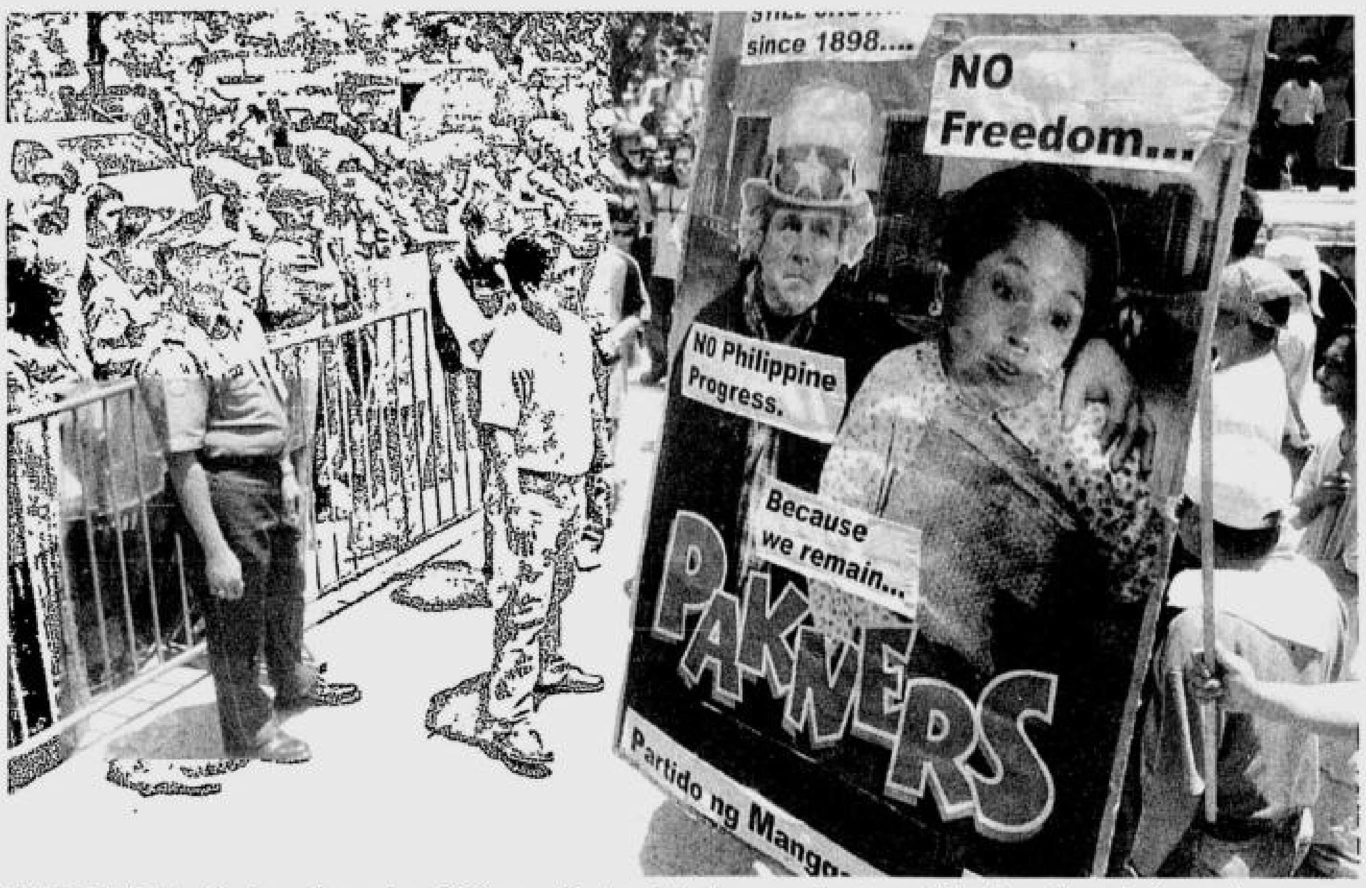
Fitch said the presidential election in May 2004 would "inject a new measure of uncertainty into the fiscal landscape."

Palace delighted

Malacañang played down Fitch's downgrading of the government's credit rating but expressed delight at the international firm's assessment of Ms Macapagal's performance as the country's chief executive officer.

"That means they agree that the President is doing well ... We consider this an endorsement of the President's leadership," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said.

But Bunye said that Ms Macapagal had made up her mind and that there was no point in speculating on whether she would run in 2004.


since 1898....
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NO Philippine Progress.
Because we remain...
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THE OTHER side of independence since 1898 according to militant groups who stage a lightning rally at the Luneta but are dispersed by the police.
ERIK ARAZAS

"She has said that she is comfortable being a non-candidate so that she can make hard and unpopular decisions if necessary," Bunye said.

But First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo seems to have forgotten his wife's surprise announcement last December that she would not be running.

"She has no decision yet," Arroyo told Palace reporters who chanced upon him yesterday near Kalayaan Hall. "Remember she got mad (about questions on her plans) because she wants to be focused on her job. She just wants to work and work and we don't understand why some people keep on injecting politics."

He said it was up to the people to indicate if they still wanted the President to run.

"First it's up to God. It's up to Gloria to make the discernment and it's up to the people. There are those who want her to run, there are others who do not. So it's up to her," Arroyo said.

Many legislators, mostly Ms Macapagal's party mates in Lakas-CMD, are pressuring the President to run. Senate President Franklin Drilon, a key political ally, said Tuesday the President was still reconsidering her options.

"Many world leaders want her for continuity. Our leaders here, those who matter, also want her. Even in the grassroots (she has support) because they can see the good things she is doing," he said.

Drilon was apparently referring to Bush, Roh and Mahathir, who had reportedly urged Ms Macapagal to change her mind.

Asked about his opinion on whether the President should run, Arroyo said in Filipino: "Whatever Gloria will say, it's up to her because she has the gift of discernment. She prays and the people are there to say what they want."

Arroyo said there was a clamor for the President to continue leading the country.

The First Couple's children prefer that their mother "retire" from politics, according to Arroyo.

As for him, he quipped: "*Ako* under the *saya ... Di ako nagsasabi kung anong gagawin. Sumusunod lang ako.*"

Don't run, please

In Bacolod City, however, Bishop Vicente Navarra urged Ms Macapagal to make another announcement that she would not run in the 2004 presidential elections.

"The way things are going now, I believe she has to come out again to prove to the public that there is no such thing, not even a hint in her desire to really launch her candidacy," Navarra said.

Streamers have popped up in key areas in Bacolod City calling on Ms Macapagal to run in the 2004 presidential polls.

So far, no group has surfaced to claim responsibility for the streamers that have the message: "Run Gloria Run" in bold red and black letters. Written below is "National Urgency for 2004" in small letters.

"Don't run Gloria! Don't be a liar!" Fr. Robert Reyes, the so-called "running priest," said upon seeing the streamers.

Reyes was in Bacolod on Wednesday for a solidarity run with members of Task Force Mapalad, a pro-peasant nongovernment organization, to dramatize the failure of agrarian reform in Negros Occidental.

He pointed out that the President had already declared she would not run in 2004. "If she does, she is like a little girl being told to run," he added.

Reyes believed that the streamers were placed by the relatives of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo in Negros Occidental.

But Ignacio Arroyo, brother of the First Gentleman, said that he too was surprised when he saw the streamers upon his arrival from Manila on Monday. *Reports from AFP, Juliet Labog-Javellana, and Carla Gomez/PDI Visayas Bureau*

GMA: Fight for freedom now in Mindanao

From page A1

She said, however, that she preferred a permanent ceasefire leading to substantive negotiations "than a ceasefire by installment designed only to gain tactical advantage."

"I cannot blame the people for being wary because they have not seen a concrete demonstration of sincerity other than these transitory peace overtures," the President said.

Last year, Ms Macapagal raised the flag in Lamitan, Basilan—the first President to mark Independence Day in Mindanao.

More meaning

Ms Macapagal said the celebration of Independence Day would be more meaningful if people were free from fear, free from want and free from injustice. She said freedom could not wait, "and the people could not wait for this freedom."

"Part of this fight is the use of targeted arrest and punishment of wrongdoers, the launching of peace talks, the provision of economic aid and dialogue with friendly nations and organizations," she said in Filipino.

Because she wants peace in Mindanao, she said she reconstituted the panel negotiating peace with the MILF.

The peace panel was dissolved after the attack in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte, which the government blamed on MILF guerrillas.

Ms Macapagal said the reconstitution of the peace panel did not mean the government was calling off the punitive action on MILF members engaged in terrorism.

"My decision on the issue will depend on national security considerations, the permanent safety of the communities and the concrete show of sincerity of the other side," she said. She will not allow terrorism to take the upper hand, she added.

The President thanked the Malaysian government "for its efforts to help bring peace to Mindanao, the Organization of the Islamic Conference for its full political cooperation to help move peace negotiations forward, the developed countries, particularly Japan, United States, Australia, the European countries, Canada and New Zealand for their engagement in Mindanao, singly or through international organizations such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and UN systems, and the United States for its abundant pledges of material support to ensure the peace through post-conflict reintegration programs."

In Mindanao, she said her administration needed, most of all, to bring government back to the center of the lives of the people.

"We are determined to make the people of Mindanao feel that we belong to one nation, that they are in the mainstream of our nation's future," she said.

Ms Macapagal made special mention of last year's flag-raising in Lamitan—the site of the controversial escape of Abu Sayyaf bandits and their hostages.

"Basilan is now in peaceful reawakening, as the people have started to take hold of their future, using their own hands and resources, aided by well-meaning allies for peace and development," she said.

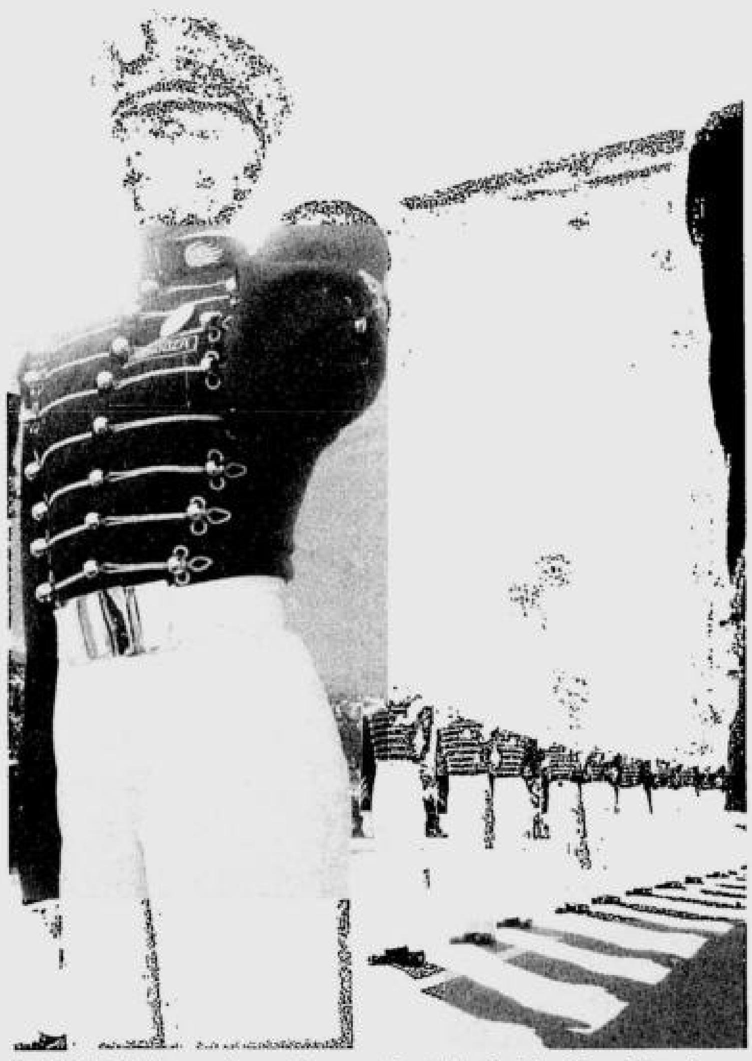
Ms Macapagal also distributed Certificates of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) to 11 Subanens representing 1,144 Subanens from Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte.

The CADT covers about 8,213 hectares of ancestral domain in 11 sitios.

She also met with Roland Ulla—the last Abu Sayyaf hostage—and his family. Ulla and his wife Joy were in tears when they shook the President's hand. They said they were overjoyed upon seeing the President in person.

At around 1:30 p.m., Ms Macapagal held a closed-door meeting with military and police commanders. *Rolly San Juan, Julie Alipala with reports from Aquiles Zonio, Grace Albasin and Beverly Ann Musni, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Nestor Burgos Jr. and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

VICE President Teofisto Guingona raises the flag at the Emilio Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, Cavite, and delivers a scathing attack on the Macapagal administration's subservience to American intentions in the region.
BETOY JOHNSON



STIRRING Independence Day parade at the Quirino Grandstand features the cadets of the Philippine Military Academy.
ERIK ARAZAS

Militants rally vs US, PPA, Charter change

MILITANT groups in key cities of Mindanao, including Davao City and Cagayan de Oro City, staged lightning rallies and protests against the country's alleged subservience to the United States.

In the Visayas, militant groups also conducted protests.

In Iloilo City, about 4,000 people marked Independence Day with a protest rally against the purchased power adjustment (PPA) and Charter change.

The protesters, led by the Jaro Archdiocese social action center and the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, converged in front of the St. Clement's Church in La Paz District before marching in the city's main streets to the Freedom Grandstand.

Many of the protesters came from parishes in Iloilo City and the towns of San Enrique, Alimodian, Maasin, Guimbal, Sta. Barbara, Lambunao, Calinog, Oton and Miag-ao.

Other groups that joined the protest action were the party-list group Bayan Muna, Anakpawis, Gabriela and Anakbayan.

In Negros Occidental, Church leaders called on the faithful to mark Independence Day by joining in a 15-minute power shutdown from 9 to 9:15 p.m. to call for the scrapping of the PPA and the Electric Power Industry Reform Act.

The four bishops of Negros Island also issued a joint Independence Day pastoral message, urging government officials to free the Filipino people from "oppressive and exploitative" situations, ranging from the move to amend the Constitution to excessive power rates.

"We have to be freed from selfishness, self-interest and greed in order to be able to love and care for, defend and free others," the bishops said.

The pastoral message was signed by Bishops Vicente Navarra of Bacolod, John Du of Dumaguete City, Patricio Buzon of Kabankalan City and Jose Advincula of San Carlos City.

Danding says he's undecided if he'll run

From page A1

toral campaign.

"With the go-signal from his doctors, Danding is definitely running for president in 2004," said Reyes, now Cojuangco's chief media consultant.

Reyes said Cojuangco would formally announce his bid for the presidency next month or early August. Cojuangco's TV ad for Ginebra San Miguel, a popular gin, has fueled speculation that he will run for president.

Farmers, fisher folk and workers may take a swig of Ginebra San Miguel after a difficult day, as shown in the gin's TV ad, but don't expect them to vote in droves for Cojuangco, according to the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

KMP chair Rafael Mariano said Cojuangco was "totally unfit for the presidency."

"Cojuangco's track record as a notorious and despotic landlord-comprador and plunderer of the more than P130 billion in coco levy funds is strong political basis for the peasantry and the people to reject Cojuangco in the 2004 presidential race," Mariano said.

He said the peasantry could not afford to have a president who will make use of his power to expand his landholdings and intensify political repression.

"With Cojuangco celebrating his 68th birthday in the United States, he is obviously courting the blessings of the US for his presidential ambitions," the KMP leader said.

"It is in the interest of the US to unite the opposition and the ruling clique with Cojuangco as the uniting factor. There's no doubt that once Cojuangco runs, with President Macapagal-Arroyo's endorsement, he will be the bet of the US," Mariano said.

Ms Macapagal herself may run in 2004, however.

At his birthday party, Cojuangco told his guests that he believes the country could move forward given the right governance.

"What we need is healing and unity in the administration," sources quoted Cojuangco as saying.

"If we cannot forget the past, forgive and help each other for the good of the future, I don't think we can really move forward," he reportedly said. "This job cannot be delegated. It has to be done by the person who leads the country and I believe it is doable." *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

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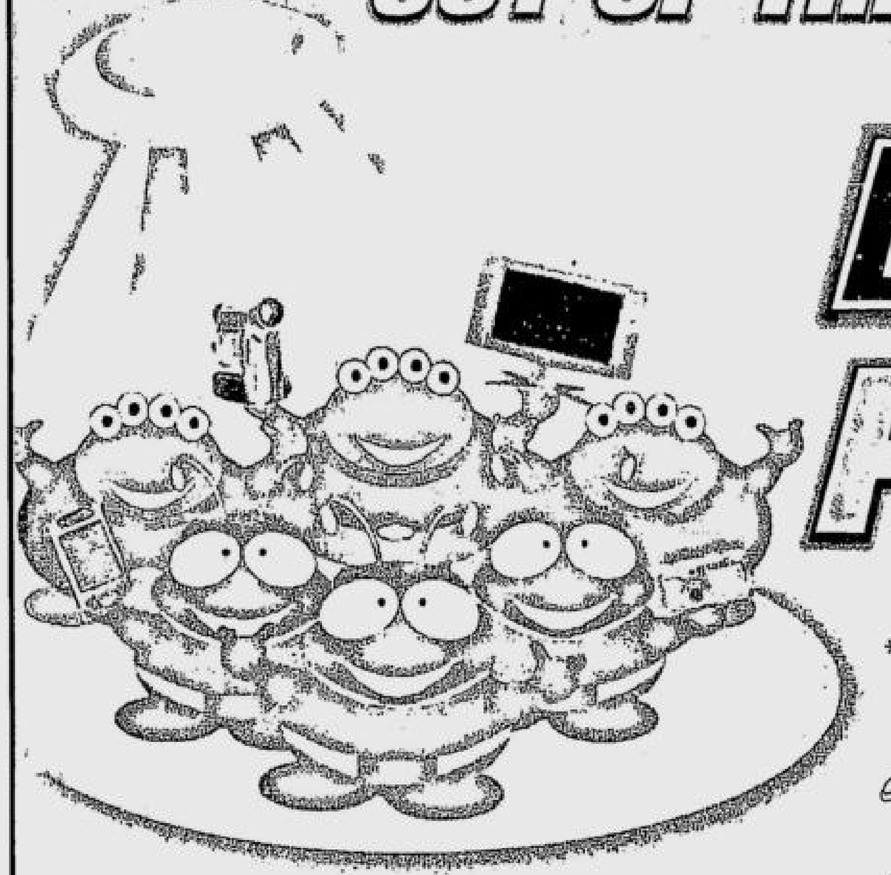

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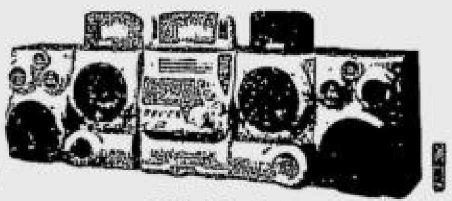

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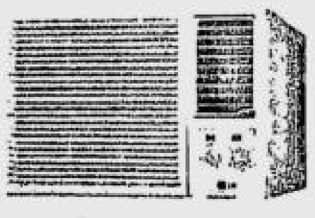

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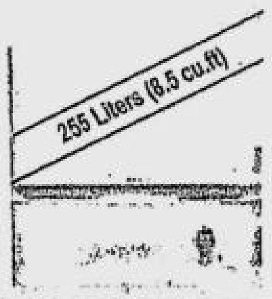

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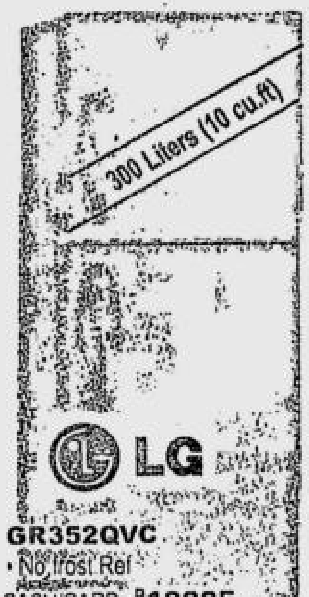

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There's bigger scandal, says activist priest

From page A1

"It should direct at least two-thirds of its resources, its personnel and its programs toward the good of the poor," said Dizon, a diocesan priest from Imus, Cavite, and convenor of the Catholic charismatic group Kairos.

"What is the Church doing about widespread poverty, about the youth who cannot go to school because of rising tuition, about the workers who cannot feed their families because of low wages, about the peasants who still do not own the lands they till?" he said.

"The biggest scandal, bigger than these sexual harassment controversies," he said, "is that until now, we are not yet a Church of the Poor."

Dizon also said the sex controversies, such as that involving Bishop Teodoro Bacani, could not be resolved by cover-up but by "honest-to-goodness acceptance and rectification."

Asked to comment on the allegation of sexual harassment against Bacani, Dizon said the bishop was just "a human person, with human failings and weaknesses."

He described Bacani as "one of the best leaders the Catholic Church in the Philippines ever had," but said that while he could attest to the bishop's "goodness," the decision on the matter should now be left to the Vatican.

"This is a time for purification and serious self-examination," Dizon said.

Fr. Robert Reyes, another activist priest, also called for transparency in the matter.

In a talk Wednesday in Calamba City before a gathering of priests from various dioceses in Mindanao, Reyes said Church authorities should address the present crisis not with the usual tendency of denying sexual offenses.

Quoting a lay friend of his, he said "what hurts the laity is not the sexual offense committed by priests or bishops but their hypocrisy of denying and not admitting their actions."

Reyes also said the scandal involving Bacani should spur the Church to look into the defects of the present priestly formation.

"Our formation does not equip us to become pastors and priests [but] merely prepares us to become intellectuals or knowledgeable in theology," he said.

He described the system as too "transcendental" and "otherworldly," and unmindful of the fact that candidates for priesthood were human and had actual needs like other human beings.

The "running priest" took the occasion to deny the allegation made by certain sectors that he was hiding Bacani's supposed victim of sexual harassment.

He admitted, however, that he had spoken personally with the woman whom he described as calm, composed and not bitterly angry at the bishop.

"It seems that those people helping her are more disturbed than the alleged victim," Reyes added.

Rich and famous

Dizon said that at present, only the rich, famous and powerful could identify with the lifestyle of most priests and Church officials.

"You see this in the places that [these priests] visit, in the people they mingle with," he said, adding that priests involved in social causes advancing the interest and welfare of the poor were not yet in the mainstream.

"Priests who actively work in the poor communities and advocate their interests do these on their own. There is no institutional support," he said.

Dizon said the vision of a Church of the Poor was reached in 1991 at the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines, where thousands of bishops, priests, nuns and Church workers agreed that "the Church in the Philippines can only be a sign of communion and unity if it becomes the Church of the Poor."

Not just an urge but a need

Reyes admitted that the accusation leveled at Bacani would have serious repercussions on the Church and the formation of priests.

But he said that allowing priests to marry would not prevent the sexual scandals besetting the clergy.

"To remove [the priestly vow of] celibacy is not an assurance that a scandal will no longer [occur]," he said. "Even priests who left the priesthood and got married have their own sad stories to tell, and many are now seeking readmission."

Reyes said Church authorities should form priests in the context of human realities such as food, sleep, affection/love, sex, culture/entertainment, money, and moral, intellectual and spiritual needs.

"In the seminary, we are taught ... that sex is just an urge. No, it is not just an urge. It is a need," he stressed.

He said that being human, priests should likewise be trained in how to deal with influential forces affecting society, like politics, media, business, religion, government and show biz.

He also urged his fellow men of the cloth to make their lifestyle consistent with their priestly spirituality and vows.

Reyes spoke before some 15 parish priests and pastors from various dioceses in Mindanao who assembled at a resort in Calamba on June 9-12 for their 12th class reunion and reflection.

They were among the 1988 graduates of the St. Francis Xavier Regional Major Seminary in Davao City.

Roco ...

From page A1

ROCO

politician to speak out in favor of Bacani's ex-secretary, expressed certainty that the Church would withstand the latest controversy.

"We should not fault the whole Church for the misdeeds of a few," he said, adding:

"I have all the confidence that we shall emerge from this crisis as a stronger people, and the Church a greater source of spiritual unity and inspiration in these trying times."

Roco has declared that he would run for president in 2004. In his statement, he said he was in the United States upon the invitation of some Filipino-American groups there.

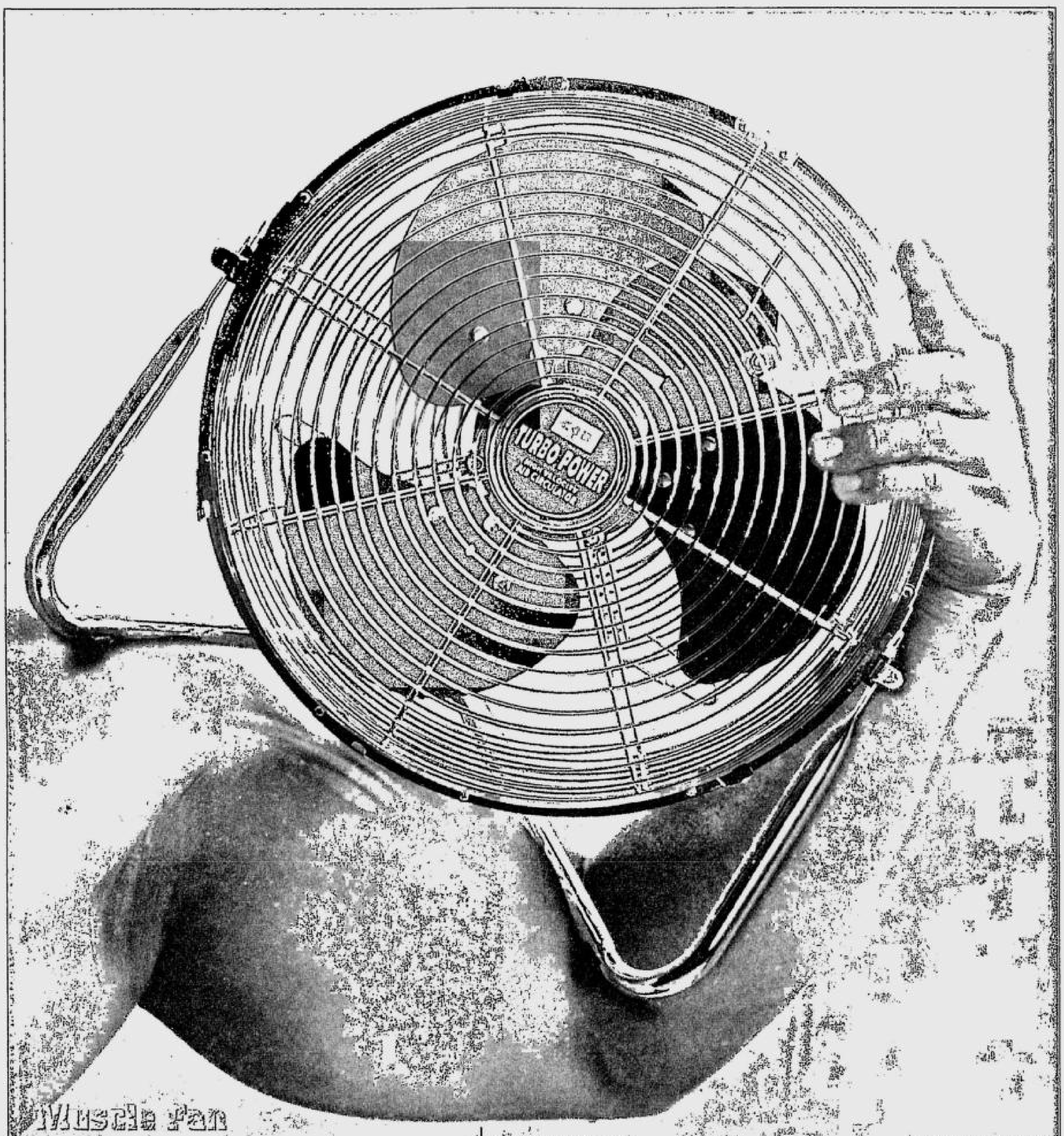
'I don't believe that'

In contrast to Roco's call for the public not to think ill of Bacani's accuser, President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband Jose Miguel Arroyo said he did not believe that the bishop committed sexual harassment.

"I don't believe he did that," Arroyo told reporters. "You know, Filipinos are very loving, so sometimes those expressions of friendship are mistaken for something else. I don't think there was malice [on Bacani's part].

Arroyo said the public should take pity on Bacani and other similarly situated men of the cloth.

"We have to defend them because they cannot defend themselves," he said, adding that Bacani's ex-secretary should substantiate her allegations against the bishop. *Reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Juliet Labog-Javellana*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Scandal part of Church battle for power, says Imee

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE SEX scandal involving Bishop Teodoro Bacani is part of the battle between his supporters and those of Bishop Socrates Villegas over the issue of who will succeed Jaime Cardinal Sin as the next cardinal of the archdiocese of Manila.

This, according to Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, who yesterday said it was also the opinion of most of the people she spoke with during her recent visit to Cebu.

Sin is scheduled to retire in August.

"This is a succession battle between the troops of Bishop Villegas and Bishop Bacani, and it's very, very painful as a religious follower to hear all these accusations. But maybe in the long run, it is a purification process," said Marcos, who claimed to hold a degree in religion and philosophy from Princeton University in the United States.

Villegas did not answer his phone when the INQUIRER tried to reach him for comment.

But he sent this message: "It is nothing but calumny. I have never done to anybody what they are doing to me. I forgive and pray for those responsible for this blatant lie. All my life is for Christ on the cross."

Marcos said it was entirely up to Church leaders to decide on the fate of Bacani, as well as the issue of celibacy.

She said there was nothing wrong with priests and bishops getting married and raising their own families.

She pointed out that during the time of Jesus Christ, even his apostles were married, and that it was only during the 11th century that deacons with no comprehensive background on religion directed priests to be celibate. *With a report from Blanche S. Rivera*

Prosecutors want Erap back in jail

From page A1

concerns Laguna was too far from the court trying him for corruption. Authorities also took into consideration the health of Estrada.

Cured

Turalba smiled when reminded that Estrada himself had admitted that nuns at the Mother Ignacia Healing Center in Caloocan had cured the former President of his arthritic knees.

Asked about the basis for the request to transfer Estrada to Camp Crame, Turalba cited Estrada lawyer Alan Paguia's motion for the Sandiganbayan to allow Estrada to attend hearings twice a week.

"We have observed that he is already fit to stand trial, so there is no need for him to stay at a hospital facility," said Turalba, who spoke with reporters in the presence of special fellow prosecutors Julio Raymundo Olaguer, Antonio Manzano and Humprey Monteroso.

"There is no ground for his confinement at the hospital," said Turalba, an assertion that was shared by his colleagues.

Estrada recently sought the dismissal of plunder charges against him, saying the Sandiganbayan had no jurisdiction over him because he was still the President.

He also attacked Palace officials, members of the Supreme Court and Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin for allegedly conspiring to unseat him.

"He is still claiming that he is the President. It's time for him to return to where he belongs, Camp Crame," Manzano said.

If the anti-graft court grants the motion, Estrada will be joining his personal lawyer, Edward Serapio, in Camp Crame.

Serapio is also accused of plunder for his involvement in the setting up of the Muslim Youth Foundation, Estrada's supposed dummy firm, into whose account he allegedly deposited hundreds of millions of pesos. The money allegedly came from gambling lords.

Savings

Turalba said detaining Estrada at Camp Crame would save the government a lot of money and simplify the task of guarding the former President.

VMMC officials earlier said keeping Estrada and his security escorts at the hospital compound for more than two years had cost the hospital P20 million. The officials are seeking an additional budget of P20 million for 2003 to cover the cost of keeping Estrada at the hospital.

Now, Beltran …

From page A1

But Beltran, a Bayan Muna party-list representative, was not exactly left in the dark. Meralco officials had told him the bad news last week during a briefing in Congress.

Beltran refused to pay his bills starting in April last year to protest the Purchased Power Adjustment costs included in the charges. Beltran used to pay up to P2,000 a month, half of it for PPA charges. Meralco cut off his electricity last October. Now the former labor leader has to rely on a friendly neighbor for his power needs.

"I refuse to pay for something I did not use," Beltran said in a statement yesterday. An aide said Beltran owed Meralco at least P15,000.

The Supreme Court earlier ordered Meralco to refund its customers for overcharges since 1994. Last month, Meralco, the country's largest power distributor, began implementing Phase 1 of the refund.

But Beltran and Rep. Robert Ace Barbers (Lakas, Surigao del Norte) claim that the firm has again pulled a fast one on its consumers.

"Meralco got its way—it formulated the refund system in such a way that consumers will be discouraged to claim their money and instead settle for the amount to be credited to their bills," Beltran said.

Citing consumers' complaints, Barbers said Meralco should avoid creating the impression among consumers that it was deliberately discouraging consumers from getting the cash refund.

Beltran and Barbers were referring to the scheme in which Meralco gave consumers a certain deadline to reclaim their cash refund. If the consumers failed to meet the deadline, the amount would be credited to the consumers' accounts, to pay for future consumption.

"Meralco is very crafty and it was determined to give consumers such a hard and complicated time that they will give up on the refund," Beltran said.

Besides, Beltran said, the "collection of onerous charges (such) as the PPA negates the value of the refund for many consumers."

He noted that for some households, the PPA fees were equivalent to the refund amount from overcharges collected by Meralco since 1994.

As for his own bills, Beltran said he was firm in his refusal to pay them.

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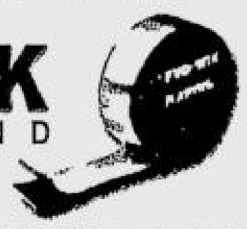
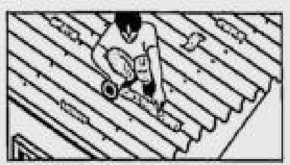
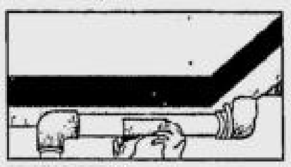
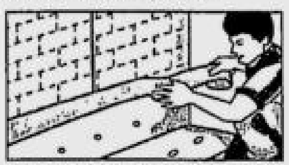




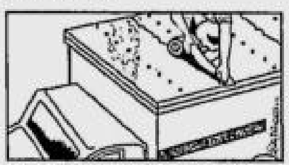
ROOFING - can be painted



DRAIN PIPES



FLASHING - (For best result, prime concrete surface)



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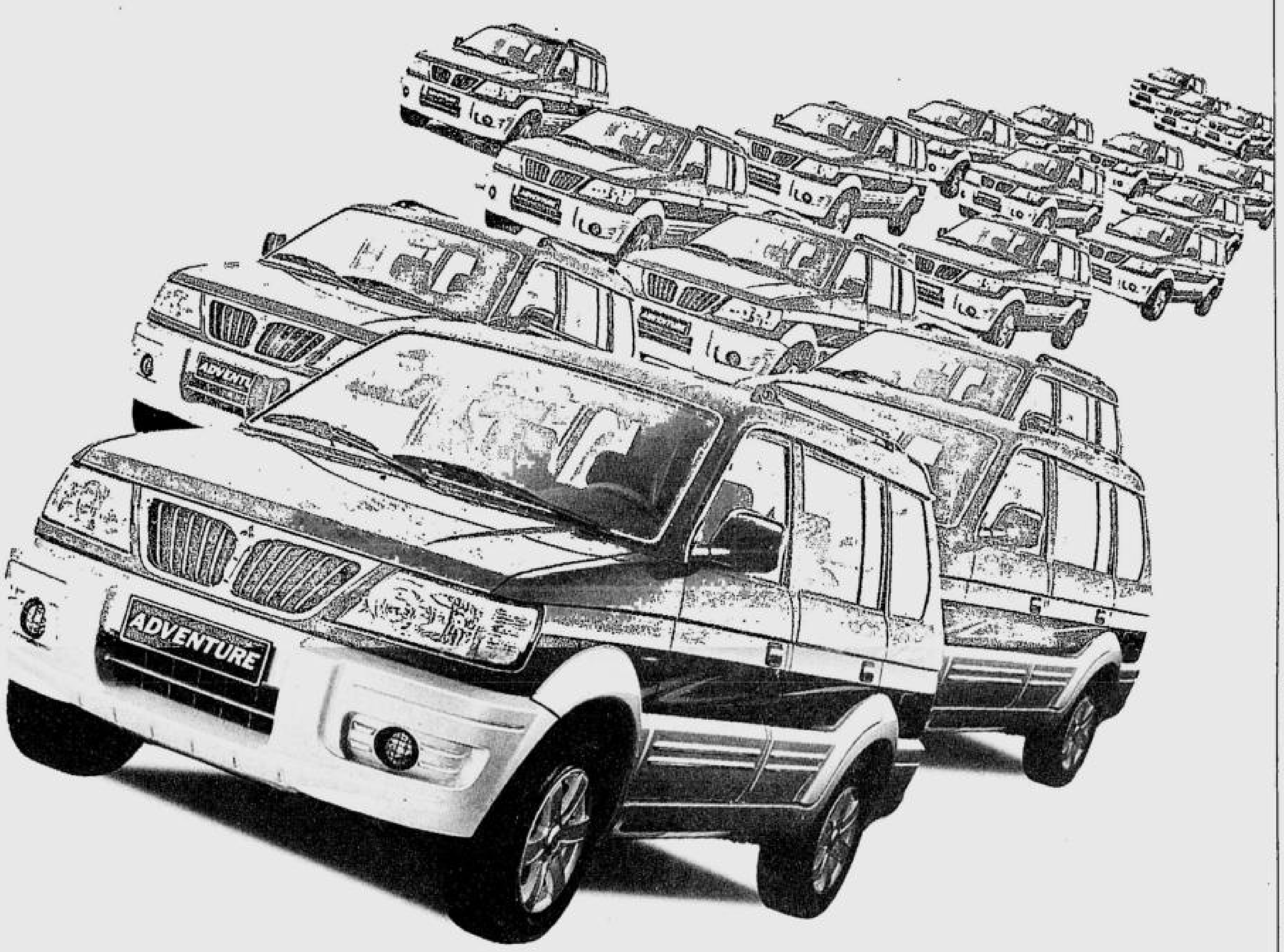

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Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

8 cops fail drug tests

By Christian Esguerra

FIRST their posts. Soon their jobs.

Thus will be the fate of eight policemen, led by a chief inspector, who proved positive for drug use during a recent testing of 1,079 members of the Philippine National Police.

Deputy Director Gen. Edgar Aglipay announced the results yesterday saying the eight would initially be relieved of their posts.

He said the eight would undergo confirmatory testing and should they fail again, they would be dismissed from the service for grave misconduct.

Apart from the chief inspector, those who yielded traces of banned substances in their urine were two policemen with the rank of Police Officer 3, two PO2s, and three PO1s, Aglipay said.

He, however, did not identify the purported drug users pending the results of the confirmatory test.

Those who proved positive for the use of illegal drugs represented barely one percent of the total number of PNP personnel who submitted urine samples for testing last Monday.

But PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane was dismayed anyway.

"He wants zero involvement of policemen in illegal drugs whether as pushers or users," Aglipay said.

The samples belonged to 211 regular officers, 764 non-commissioned officers, 65 non-uniformed personnel, 11 civilian staff members and 28 media people.

The officers were randomly selected from the National Capital Region and Regions 2, 3 and 4.

Expecting protests, Chief Supt. Rolando Garcia, director for investigation and detection management, claimed that the tests were fool-proof.

SCUFFLE Policemen grab a member of a militant group which tried to hold a lightning protest rally at the Rizal Park during Indepedence Day rites held there on Thursday.

ERIK ARAZAS

Mayors decry cutting of trees

By Nelson Flores

TWO MAYORS have asked the Metro Manila Development Authority to stop what they described as the wanton cutting of trees in the metropolis.

Mandaluyong Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. told newsmen in an interview the other day that the cutting of trees must be done with proper consultation with the local government unit that has jurisdiction over the trees.

Abalos compared the recent cutting of trees along Julia Vargas Road with the reckless destruction of steel fences along Edsa-Crossing interchange last year.

"The difference is that trees are living things that cannot be restored to life once cut," Abalos stressed.

Pasig City Mayor Soledad Eusebio shared Abalos' position.

Eusebio said the uprooting of trees as part of an ongoing experimental traffic scheme at the Ortigas Center was unnecessary, irrelevant, wanton abuse of discretion and an anti-environmental act.

She also noted that MMDA chairman Bayani Fernando did not get permission from the local government unit to cut trees in the sprawling commercial center.

"Sound judgment dictates that it is not practical to cut down trees and demolish the center islands just to test if the traffic scheme would work. What if the scheme fails? Who will shoulder the restoration expenses? Can they bring the trees back to life?" she asked.

METROBRIEFS

Dwellers fight for homes

AS THE nation was celebrating its 105th Independence Day yesterday, a group of squatters were fighting the demolition of their homes at the corner of 6th Avenue and Roxas Street, Caloocan City. Cecilia Cruz of the Caloocan Urban Poor Affairs Office said the informal dwellers were demanding a relocation site before they would agree to the dismantling of their houses from the lot owned by the SKS Construction and Development Corp. They are also claiming that a court had issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) on the demolition. But Cruz said there was no TRO. Cruz said the residents earlier received money from SKS but some of them still refused to leave. *Tarra Quismundo*

Send text, save lives

PARENTS in Muntinlupa City have found an easy way of saving their children from drug addiction. They simply send text messages to the city's Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) to report on drug pushers and users. Supt. Levi Soledad, DEU chief, said his office had been receiving some 30 text messages daily since the city government launched the Crusade Against Drug Abuse text program early this year. He added they already made 208 drug-related arrests through the program. Text messages are sent to the Crusade hotline 0920-7272311. The DEU verifies all messages before taking action, Soledad said. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Manila security too tight

MILITANTS were largely absent from yesterday's 105th Independence Day celebrations in Manila. The reason: They were unable to sneak past the tight security put up by the Western Police District and the National Capital Region Police Office around the US Embassy, the Quirino Grandstand and Mendiola. Police mobile patrol units sighted "very small" groups of demonstrators, but they dispersed as soon as they were seen, according to a police officer. *Luige del Puerto*

Watchman leads bank heist

A BRANCH of the Allied Bank in Valenzuela City reportedly lost "millions of pesos" to one of their own private watchmen and an accomplice during a heist late Wednesday afternoon. Valenzuela City probers said bank officials refused to say how much was carted away by bank guard Reynaldo Arriola Saddi, 37, of Interior 2, Heroes Del '96, Caloocan City, and his cohort identified only as a certain "Arnel." Saddi of D Armoured Security and Investigation Agency had been detailed at the bank for three months. Investigation showed that at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Saddi who was off duty arrived at the bank at 292 Paso de Blas and tricked the on-duty guard Eddie Precioso into allowing him to enter the already closed bank. After Precioso opened the door, Saddi and Arnel barged in and announced the holdup. *Tina Santos*

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NBI collars lawman, judge for extortion

By Luige del Puerto

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents arrested on Wednesday a municipal trial court judge and a policeman in Tarlac after they were accused of extorting about P20,000 from a businesswoman in Quezon City.

Judge Luisito Adaoag and PO3 Eduardo Galicia fell in an entrapment operation in the town of Gerona, Tarlac, the NBI said yesterday.

Galicia acted as the judge's bagman, said an NBI agent who worked on the case.

The case stemmed from an alleged May 9 extortion attempt on businesswoman Desiree Legario at her stall on Commonwealth Avenue, Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City.

Investigation showed that Galicia and SPO1 Antonio Sebadan went to Legario's stall to serve an arrest warrant issued by Adaoag against the trader.

The officers said the warrant arose from a case of estafa in the town of Gerona.

Legario said she wanted to see a lawyer first, but the policemen had forced their way and brought her to Gerona.

She said that when they reached Gerona, Gloria Peralta, the estafa complainant, insulted and threatened her. Then she said she was detained at the town's jail.

On May 10, Legario posted a P6,000 bail, but was not released because Judge Adaoag refused to sign the release order, the NBI said.

Legario said that on May 20, Judge Adaoag called her and demanded P20,000 in exchange for dropping the case. She said she agreed, and set the pay-off date on June 11.

When Legario came back to Manila, she immediately sought assistance from the NBI, which mounted an entrapment operation.

Willie, John suspended

MTB hosts in trouble anew for airing sleaze

By Marinel Cruz

JOHN Estrada, Willie Revillame and Randy Santiago

THEY never seem to learn.

Television hosts Willie Revillame and John Estrada have been given a one-week suspension by ABS-CBN management for conduct unbecoming and use of inappropriate language on their noontime variety show "Masayang Tanghali Bayan."

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, ABS-CBN said it would suspend its agreements with Revillame and Estrada as hosts of MTB from June 16 to June 21 "to give them the time and opportunity to re-orient themselves" with ABS-CBN guidelines as provided in their respective talent agreements with the network.

"ABS-CBN has taken the initiative to act on instances within the program MTB, where some of the hosts (Revillame and Estrada) have used inappropriate language or conduct, despite constant and repeated warnings for them to be conscious of the sensibilities of the viewers," the statement said.

Maloli Manalastas, ABS-CBN vice president for public relations, said the suspension was prompted by the complaints the network received from televiewers and from the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) against Revillame and Estrada.

In 1999, the network suspended Revillame, Estrada and co-host Randy Santiago for their crass jokes and vulgar behavior, and their inappropriate treatment of contestants in the Calendar Girl segment of the show.

The suspension of the hosts eventually led to a 20-day suspension of MTB and Revillame's resignation from the network.

Manalastas yesterday told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that management has "sent warnings to the people concerned, but it seemed that the warnings fell on deaf ears."

In a letter addressed to MTRCB Chair Consoliza Laguardia, MTB production manager Marilou Almaden said the network had also issued a memorandum to all of its program hosts, reminding them of their responsibility to observe the network's guidelines.

"It is the networks responsibility to strictly monitor the use of (vulgar) language and the conduct of its hosts during each show," Almaden said in the letter.

Shortly after Revillame was suspended in 1999, he told the INQUIRER that "we only wanted to make people laugh and make them happy, but the opposite happened. They didn't like it."

School-bound cops to deter crooks preying on students

By Leila Salaverria

BAON MO DEAR–BAKA ma-LATE KA SA SCHOOL!

NOT ONLY students, but also the police, will be trooping to schools in Makati on Monday.

The lawmen will go to school to guard the youngsters from criminals.

City police chief Senior Supt. Jovito Gutierrez said foot and mobile patrols would be sent to schools, universities, transportation terminals and other places frequented by students, teachers and school employees in order to deter snatchers and robbers from preying on them.

Intelligence agents will also be monitoring syndicates preying on students and teachers.

Police and barangay officials will also ensure that the areas around a school, including waiting sheds and pedestrian lanes, would be free of vendors and other obstructions. They will also enforce the no parking rule strictly.

The city government also announced yesterday that safety measures have been put up around schools.

Pedestrian lanes have been painted clearly, while "slow down," "children crossing," and "school zone" signs have been erected.

Waiting sheds and pathways leading to schools have also been lighted.

2 men charged for Olive bar drive-by shooting

By Leila Salaverria

POLICE yesterday filed murder and frustrated murder charges against two suspects in the drive by shooting at the Olive Bar in Makati City that left Emiliano Familiar dead and Arthur Alvin Aguilar wounded last June 5.

Charged were Miles Villacampa, 29, of Ignatius Village, and Donnie Elviña, 24, of Loyola Heights, both of Quezon City.

A report by PO2 Jason David shows that Aguilar identified the suspects as the ones who had shot him and Familiar.

Aguilar said he saw Villacampa and Elviña inside the maroon Honda CR-V (WPD-506) in which the gunman was riding, but he could not say who had fired the automatic machine pistol.

He added that there was a third person inside the vehicle but he was not sure of that person's identity.

Another witness told probers that he saw Villacampa holding the gun.

According to the witness, who was a meter away from the vehicle, Villacampa was sitting at the passenger seat of the CR-V.

Investigators said Villacampa used to be friends with Aguilar, a martial arts expert, but the two had a falling out.

Aguilar's wife Maridel also told the police that her husband had received death threats from Villacampa before the shooting.

Police are conducting a manhunt for Villacampa but he has remained at large.

Meanwhile, investigators revealed that they had traced the CR-V's license plates to a certain Diana Lim San Juan. However, San Juan's CR-V was painted silver.

Police are looking for San Juan to shed light on the incident.

FATHER Robert Reyes (left) leads families of the five men who have been convicted of killing Rolando Abadilla in 1996 in a prayer for their exoneration in Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

'Abadilla 5' pins hope on high court review

By Amy Remo

On JUNE 13, 1996, Col. Rolando Abadilla was shot and killed in Quezon City. For that murder, five men took the fall.

"It has been seven years since the incident and the imprisonment of the Abadilla 5," said Marilou Lumanog, wife of Lenido, one of the five men sentenced to death for the crime. "We trust that this time, justice will prevail. We are given new hope in the Supreme Court's case review and the re-opening of the human rights case."

The five men—Lenido Lumanog, Cesar Fortuna, Joel de Jesus, Rameses de Jesus and Augusto Santos—maintain their innocence. They said that they had been tortured into making the confession.

The case of the Abadilla 5 is under automatic review by the Supreme Court. The human rights case against the police officers accused of torturing the men has already been filed, according to Lumanog. She said that the families of the five men expect resolution of the case by yearend.

Yesterday, "Running Priest" Father Robert Reyes led a spirited run for the Abadilla 5 and for their supposed victim.

With six other runners, Reyes ran from Camp Crame to the stretch of Katipunan Avenue where Abadilla, an intelligence officer during Martial Law, was shot.

Reyes then held a prayer on the spot where Abadilla was killed.

Reyes said that the five men had nothing to do with the murder. He claimed that an Alex Boncayao Brigade member earlier had admitted to him that it was he who killed Abadilla and even showed the priest the ex-officer's Omega watch.

DOTC stops 3 emission centers from operating

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications has suspended the licenses of three private emission testing centers (PETCs) for failing to comply with the information relay requirements of the Land Transportation Office.

"We suspended three testing centers because their machines were not properly interfaced with the computer at the LTO," said DOTC Undersecretary Arturo Valdez. "We're still doing continuous monitoring (of existing PETCs)."

Valdez said the suspended PETCs would have 30 days to make the necessary adjustments.

Failure to comply with requirements would result in the forfeiture of the PETCs' bonds worth P50,000 each, Valdez said.

"With these suspensions, I think we're sending a message to the PETCs that they have to ensure the integrity of the testing centers," he added. *Abigail Ho*

3 fires break out; elderly woman dies

ARCELI Garcia, 81, on Wednesday died in a fire that her son started in Quezon City.

Manuel Garcia, 42, reported to be mentally unstable and neck-deep in gambling debts, set fire to their house on Polagon Street, San Jose, Quezon City, when his mother and sister refused to give him P2,000, arson investigators said.

Police now have Garcia in their custody.

Two fires also broke out in Mandaluyong City and San Juan on the same night, injuring Fire Inspector Elieas Bagyo, 27.

Authorities pegged damage to property at P1 million. *Alcuin Papa and Nelson Flores*

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PREFERRED BILLING ADDRESS ☐ HOME ☐ OFFICE
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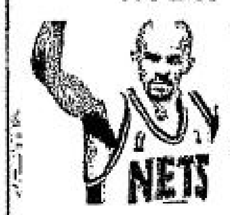


This just isn't Kidd stuff /A28

Tantalizing Tiger ready /A30

Hewitt advances, but barely /A27

Duremdes out for 3 weeks

By June Navarro

THE curtains abruptly fell on the high-scoring act of Kenneth Duremdes in the quartefinals of the current PBA All-Filipino Cup.

The Sta. Lucia Realty scoring ace will be sidelined for at least two weeks after injuring his left foot at the end of a 40-point performance that lifted the Realtors past the San Miguel Beermen, 83-81, Wednesday night.

Dr. George Canlas of the St. Luke's Medical Center said the 1998 MVP strained his left calf muscle after landing hard during a rebound scuffle late in the game and the injury could worsen if Duremdes continues to play.

"Puede ko raw ilaro kaya lang baka lalong lumala kaya ipinapahinga ko lang (I have to rest to avoid the risk of further injuring my foot," Duremdes said.

The former Adamson star, who scattered 42 points when the Realtors clobbered FedEx last week, ranks second overall with a 23-point average this season.

He limped out of the game with the Beermen with still two minutes left and the Realtors preserved a second straight victory that gave them a virtual seat in the semifinals.

'Dr. Canlas said it would take two weeks for the injured muscle to heal and another week for the muscle to fully recover.

This means Duremdes could miss the semifinal round which will start late next week.

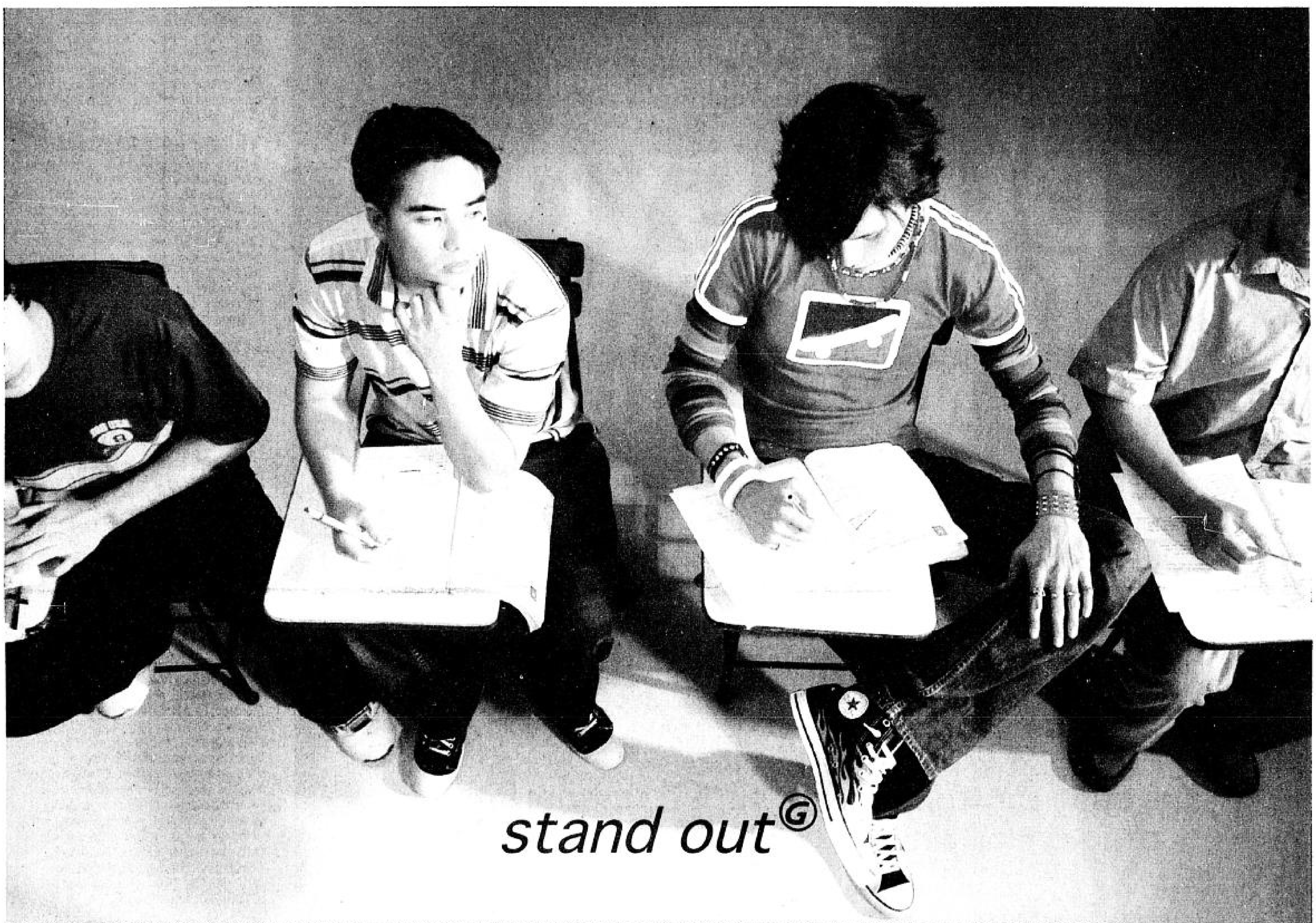
Sta. Lucia coach Alfrancis Chua said he is hoping Duremdes would return midway in the best-of-five semifinals, stressing it's better to lose him now than in the crucial stages of the tournament.

The absence of Duremdes would rob the Realtors of at least 23 points, 9.6 rebounds and 3.7 assists per game.

Meanwhile, Jimwell Torion of Batang Red Bull showed up at the PBA Commissioner's Office yesterday and submitted a rehabilitation certificate to Commissioner Noli Eala.

The certificate was issued by Life Management Inc., a rehab center where Torion underwent a one-month drug-counseling program.

·Torion also requested for his early reinstatement.



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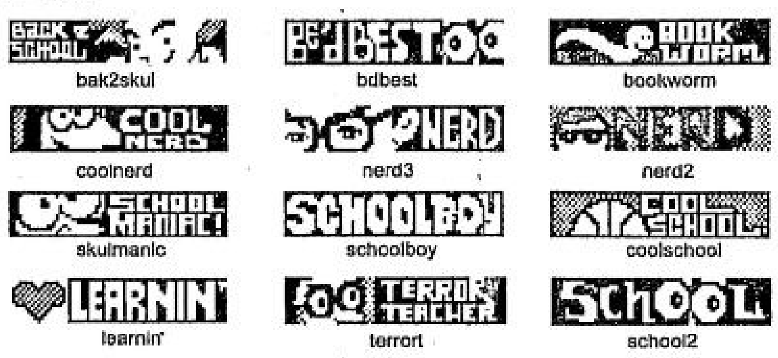
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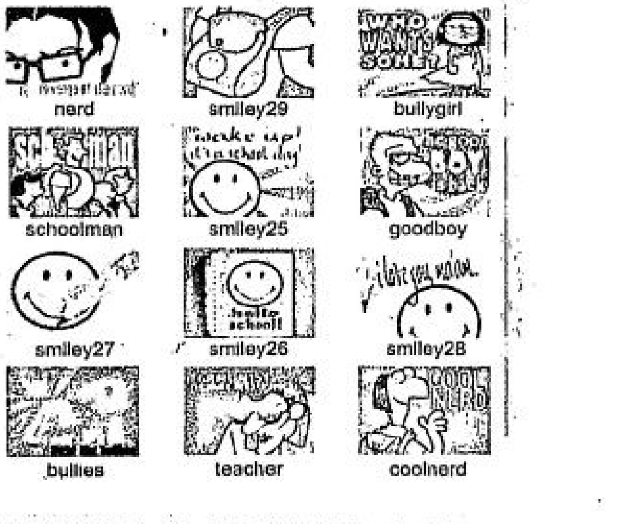
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teacher
coolnerd

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TITLE	KEYWORD	ARTIST
Dilemma	*dilemma*	*Nelly, Kelly Rowland*
Work It Out	*workitou*	*Beyonce Knowles*
I'm With You	*imwithu*	*Avril Lavigne*
Sk8er Boi	*sk8erboi*	*Avril Lavigne*
Save Me	*savemerz*	*Remy Zero*
Get Ur Freak On	*geturfre*	*Missy Misdemeanor Elliot*
How You Remind Me	*howyou*	*Nickelback*
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PBA QUARTERFINALS

Tigers eye sweep vs Thunder

PBA All-Filipino Cup Quarterfinals

STANDINGS	W	L
Group A		
Sta. Lucia	2	0
Alaska	1	1
FedEx	1	1
San Miguel	0	2
Group B		
Coca-Cola	2	0
Red Bull	1	1
Talk N Text	1	1
Ginebra	0	2

GAMES TODAY *(Ynares Center)*
5: 00 p.m.—Red Bull vs Coca-Cola
7:30 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Ginebra

By June Navarro

COCA-Cola's defending champion Tigers, already assured of a semifinal slot, go for a three-game sweep of Group B against Batang Red Bull today in the PBA All-Filipino Cup quarterfinals at the Ynares Center in Antipolo.

After hurdling Barangay Ginebra and Talk N Text, the Tigers enjoy a slight edge when they collide at 5 p.m. with the Thunder (1-1), who badly need a win to remain in contention for the second semifinal slot in Group B.

If the Tigers prevail, the Phone Pals (1-1) can clinch the second semifinal berth with a victory over the Gin Kings (0-2)in the 7:30 p.m. mainer.

Even if Coca-Cola loses, the Tigers would still have a lock on a semifinal slot since they are not expected to be beaten by 50 points.

Thus under a three-way tie arising from victories by Red Bull and Talk N Text,the Tigers get the first semifinal berth with the Thunder and the Phone Pals playing off for the second qualifying slot.

But there's another possible three-way jam, this time for second place among Red Bull, Talk N Text and Ginebra, if the Tigers and the Gin Kings win.

In this deadlock, the three will be ranked according to their quotients with the highest placed team drawing a bye and the other two knocking each other off for the right to meet the bye squad for the second semifinal berth.

The Thunder expect rough sailing against the Tigers with the loss of Jimwell Torion and Davonn Harp, who are under indefinite suspension for drug use.

"When Vonn (Harp) and Jimwell (Torion) were around, we had an easy time going for a win. Now, it has become really exhausting to score a victory," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao.

The other two semifinal slots are being disputed by Sta. Lucia Realty, Alaska, Federal Express and San Miguel Beer.

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SPORTSWATCH

RP netter sparkles

FILIPINO netter Aritmetico Lim captured another international title after subduing third seed Eric Legunn of the United States, 6-1, 6-1, in the boys' 14-under final at the USTA sanctioned Level I Plainfield Tennis Championship recently at the Donald Van Blakes Tennis Center in New Jersey. Lim, an RP pool member and student of Chiang Kai Shek College, advanced to the final after hurdling top seed Yohei Shoji of Japan, 6-3, 6-3. Coached by his brother Numero, Lim is currently training in the US as he bids to make the RP Davis Cup Team. He will also join the boys' division in the US Open in August. Lim is a member of USTA and a protege of Manila Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna Jr.

Rotary golf slated

ROTARIANS from the south are expected to comprise the bulk of entries in the 17th Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines (RGFFP) Southern Leg golf tournament slated July 24-26 at the Del Monte Golf Club in Bukidnon and Pueblo del Oro Golf Club in Cagayan de Oro. RGFFP chair Melito S. Salazar said the tourney is sponsored by the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. Salazar has already formed the committee for the event led by the officers of the Rotary Club of Cagayan De Oro. They are Dr. Carlo Romero (chair) and Max Seno (vice chair). Also supporting the meet are Rep. Tinnex Jaraula and Mayor Vicente Emano. For inquiries, call tournament director Pancho Perea at 721-8896 or 721-10564 local 32.

Villamor hosts clinic

THE NATIONAL Golf Association's summer youth program resumes this weekend when swing guru Dick Villalon conducts free clinics at the Villamor Golf Club. The listup for the Saturday-Sunday clinics, backed by DHL, WWW Express, Callaway and DHL Worldwide Express, starts at 7 a.m. Villalon has successfully conducted the golf clinics, initiated by NGAP president Rod Feliciano. For details, contact NGAP at 525-6987 or 524-5260 and fax No, 521-1587.

SJ spikers triumph

SAN Juan overwhelmed Manila Team 2, 25-23, 25-19, 25-17, to rule the 1st Rexona Municipal Open Women's Volleyball tournament recently at the San Juan gym. The SJ spikers were paced by MVP Angela Descalsota, who also led the Mythical Six along with teammate Katrina de Lara, Manila 2's Kristine Dave and Carolyn Lardizabal, Dolores Custodio of Pateros and Marynelle Falle of Valenzuela. Coach of the winning team is Aya Puno. Mayor J.V. Ejercito awarded the trophies. Backing the event were Unilever Phils., Ad Staunch Communication Network, Compass Internet and Ducks Unlimited.

All set for Cavite tilt

IT'S all systems go for th "Big Fight Sa Cavite 6-Cock One Day Derby" on July 5 at the Cavite Coliseum in Bacoor. Derby hosts are Sen. Ramon Revilla, former PBA commissioner Rudy Salud, Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado, Lito Orillaza and William Co. Exclusive sponsor is Pagcor-Casino Filipino. "The winningest gamebirds, mostly broodcocks that are at least three-year-olds, are the ones being fielded in this kind of derby. It will be a battle of champions," Salud said. Recently, a similar one-day super derbies were held at Mandaluyong Coliseum (Battle of the Giants 7-Cock Derby) and Araneta Coliseum (Engkuwentro sa Big Dome 7-Cock Derby). For more details, contact 0918-5674921 (Ferdie Bautista) and 046-9709971 (Cavite Coliseum).

'Firefly' prevails twice

JUN Santiago's "Firefly Thunderbird 13" posted rare back-to-back wins in the year-round National Cockers Association 7-Cock Derby after tallying six points in the final leg of the NCA circuit yesterday (Thursday) at the Araneta Coliseum. RT 114 BJ Highrise II of Ruel Ricafort and Jimafer Clear Cut Firefly of Pampanga's Jingco and Madlambayan brothers were the other joint winners, but it was Santiago who stole the spotlight.

AXN Challenge in KL

THE AXN Challenge goes to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on July 5. The grueling 50-km race, designed by Malaysia's Eco-Challenge and adventure racing veteran Chan Yuen-Li, will give Malaysians a taste of what the world renowned Eco-Challenge is like. Participation is open to athletes 18 years old and above. Registration is from May 19 to June 22. Forms and more information about the event can be found on www.axn.asia.com, according to AXN VP of marketing Gregory Ho.

FEDERATION

TAEKWONDO AWARD
Philippine Olympic Committee chair and Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado (left) receives the prestigious Korean Presidential Award from World Taekwondo Federation president Dr. Un Yong Kim in recognition of his tremendous contribution to the sport, both here and abroad. The ceremony was held recently to mark the 30th anniversary of the WTF.

SHARAPOVA. Warned. AP

This 'new Kournikova' can't keep her mouth shut

BIRMINGHAM, England—Russian teenager Maria Sharapova, who is already being hailed as the new Anna Kournikova, found herself at the center of controversy here on Wednesday when she was warned to silence her on-court screams.

The 16-year-old defeated fifth seed Nathalie Dechy, 6-3, 6-2, in the second round of the $170,000 WTA event but her French opponent complained to the umpire over the Russian's habit of screaming every time she hit a shot.

"There is a rule. You are not supposed to scream like that," Dechy said.

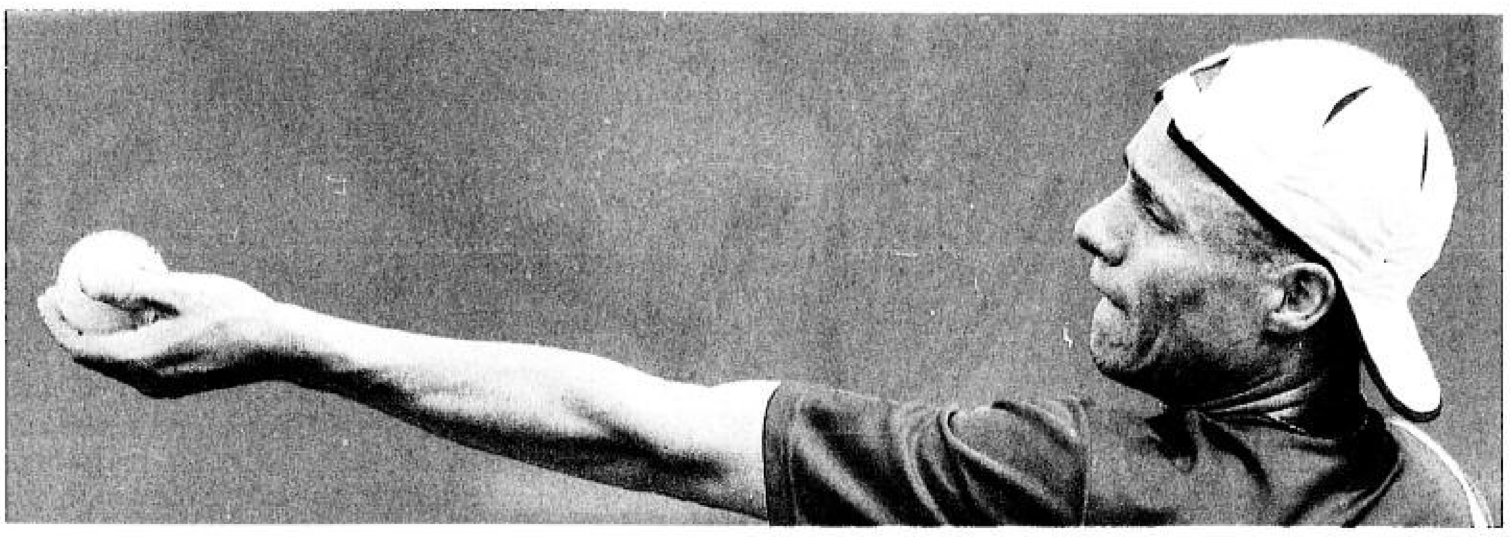
Tour supervisor Donna Kelso told the BBC: "I asked Miss Sharapova if she could be a little bit quieter, without wanting to disrupt her game.

"There was no difference to the level of her play but there was a little less noise."

However, Sharapova said the grunting and groaning were part of her natural game.

"Dechy told the umpire I was grunting and she didn't like it," she said. "It's a natural instinct—I've been doing it all my life." *AFP*

Hewitt advances, but barely



PLAYER of the Year Lleyton Hewitt, rudderless after parting ways with his coach, blames it on the pressure. REUTERS

LONDON—Lleyton Hewitt roused himself from a tennis torpor in the nick of time on Wednesday to beat Raemon Sluiter, 7-6, 3-6, 7-6, at the Stella Artois Championships.

Rudderless after severing ties with his coach Jason Stoltenberg during the French Open last week, Hewitt struggled throughout on the slick Queen's Club grass.

Still, though, he insisted pressure had not got the better of him in his pursuit of a record fourth successive crown here.

"Pressure's pressure, mate . . . whooppee-doo," he said.

Still, it was hardly an encouraging display before the defense of his Wimbledon crown later this month, and must have taken a little of the shine off the ATP Player of the Year award he received on court at the end of the match.

"I was trying to find my footing out there but didn't feel as good as I did at Wimbledon (last year)," the Australian conceded. "At least this gives me another opportunity to get another match under my belt here."

Former Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek advanced in dying daylight, beating Jan Vacek, 7-5, 2-6, 6-3. His reward is a match-up against another member of that exclusive club, 1992 champion and second seed here Andre Agassi.

Earlier, Greg Rusedski and Alex Bogdanovic provided some British cheer. Rusedski moved into the third round with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Morocco's Hicham Arazi in 66 minutes.

Bogdanovic lost a titanic second round battle with Anthony Dupuis, but not before giving the Frenchman an almighty scare in the 3-6, 7-6, 7-6 defeat.

Former champion Todd Martin left early, forced to quit the $939,300 event with a chest injury.

Martin, winner of the tournament in 1994, suffered a tear to a chest muscle on Sunday. He played on Monday, defeating Brazil's Ricardo Mello in straight sets in the first round.

The injury could sideline Martin for up to four weeks, but he is optimistic of making Wimbledon, which starts on June 23.

In other action, Marc Rosset ousted ninth seed Jarkko Nieminen of Finland, 7-5, 7-5, and Belgian Dick Norman beat Brazil's Andre Sa 6-3, 7-6. *Reuters*

Mora upsets Lazaro in Cebu

RP Davis Cupper Michael Mora III scored the day's biggest upset when he eliminated fifth seed Alexander Lazaro, 2-6, 7-5, 6-3, to reach the quarterfinals of the P200,000 Cebuana Lhuillier Tennis Circuit 1 at the Manila Polo Club Indoor courts.

The ninth-seed Mora, a member of the team that won the bronze medal in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur SEA Games, guns for a semifinal berth today against second seed and Philta Open Champion Joseph Victorino, who scored a 6-2, 6-0 win over No. 13 Luisito Clores.

No. 11 Antonio Sagansay and No. 12 Rocky Paglalunan also scored upset wins to earn quarterfinal slots in this event supported by Accel Sports, Le Soleil de Boracay, Head Penn, City Garden Hotel Makati, Oceanic 1911, All-Care Insurance, Chris Sports Plaza, Linden Suites and Key Print.

Sagansay clobbered sixth seed Jessie Lapore, 6-1, 6-4, to advance against fourth seed and Coca-Cola National Open runner up Rolando Ruel Jr., who breezed past No. 16 Cris Cuarto, 6-0, 6-2.

Paglalunan, a quarterfinalist in Subic, needed an extra set to conquer seventh pick Nino Salvador, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, to advance against top seed and Coke Open champion Johnny Arcilla, a 6-1, 6-1 winner over No. 15 Beeyong Sison.

Third seed and PCA Open runner up Adelo Abadia, also a Davis Cupper, survived No. 14 Chemiel Mantua, 7-5, 6-7 (4), 6-3, to arrange a quarterfinal meeting with No. 8 Elbert Anasta, who defeated unseeded Roland Kraut, 6-2, 6-2.

Zoran

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

AS promised, here's Zoran Radovic.

It matters that he deserves a second look. Name me a basketball player who has played for his country 141 times. Not even Jordan.

So, basketball scientists out there, including the pseudo experts, eat your hearts out. Here I was chatting one fine day with a legend for almost three hours. I cannot thank Graham Lim enough for this rare opportunity.

Zoran Radovic used to be a basketball star in Europe, almost in the league of Kukoc, who he used to guard. Zoran deserves space here not only because he is a living legend like Jaworski but also because of the Filipinos' commonality with him: basketball.

"In Yugoslavia, everybody plays basketball," said Zoran. "You think you are the world's craziest when it comes to basketball? In my country, the world stops when a basketball game is on TV. When we won the gold in Indianapolis last year, a million showed up at the airport to welcome the team. For one week after the victory, the streets were lined up with people celebrating."

He said Yugoslavia exists for two things: Food and basketball.

"Basketball is our way of life," Zoran said. "We eat to be able to play, watch, basketball. Soccer is a far second to basketball. Volleyball is third."

Of Kukoc, Michael Jordan's teammate at Chicago, Zoran said: "He is almost 6-foot-8. I give away about 5 inches in height. But I guarded him whenever our teams met in tournaments in Europe."

Zoran describes his playing style as more of John Stockton than Jason Kidd, who both stand an inch taller than the 6-foot-3 Radovic.

"They used to call me the John Stockton of Europe," he said. "I am quick. I love to pass more than shoot. I am more of a team man than an individual player."

As a point guard for his mother team, he'd score in the 20s to the 30s.

"I averaged more than 20 points per game playing for my team," he said. "But when I played for the national team, I averaged no less than 12 points a game. That's because I was more concerned with passing, assisting and orchestrating our game than shooting."

That's understandable. It's in the national team where you have designated shooters; there's usually an abundance of them in fact that point guards are ordered outright to do more passing than shooting.

As written here yesterday, Zoran, 42, is from Belgrade, the capital of Yugoslavia. He was here (he left yesterday for Geneva, Switzerland) to have a "look-see of what's happening to Philippine basketball."

Zoran said he never dreamed a life of looking after the welfare of world basketball. It was his dream to play in the Olympics. But each time he had a chance, it slipped his grasp.

"Twice I was ready for it, but I suffered injuries in my wrist the first time and then in my thigh the second time," said Zoran, who was, at 21, the youngest ever point guard to play for Yugoslavia in the world championship in Colombia in 1982.

The third time he made it to the Olympic team in the 1992 Barcelona Olympiad, the United Nations imposed sanctions on war-ravaged Yugoslavia, which included non-participation in the quadrennial games.

"I missed out on my Olympic dream three times but where I am now, helping make basketball a favorite world sport, I am happy," said Zoran, whose wife Alexandra teaches literature and journalism at Stari Grad School in the capital city of Belgrade. They have two children: Marco 15, and Ana 12.

Yes, you guessed it right. While in town, Zoran had Graham Lim, the secretary general of the Basketball Association, for a bodyguard cum baby sitter.

"A very well-behaved person," said Graham of Zoran. "Very straightforward. He stands on a high moral ground, making him a huge asset of Fiba (world basketball federation)."

I asked Zoran about Boris Stankovic, the Yugoslavian high priest of basketball who used to rule Fiba with an iron fist.

"Oh, he is happily retired now," said Zoran. "He is almost 80, if not more than 80, but he is still doing fine."

Zoran is now Fiba manager for international relations and development. Before flying to Manila for a three-day working visit, Zoran visited Malaysia and India.

"I stayed four days in New Delhi and Punjab," he said of his trip to India. "I was there for development talks. India badly needs to prepare for a basketball program designed for the future."

In Malaysia, Zoran discussed a four-year program for Asia with that nation's basketball leaders.

His trip to Manila was a "familiarization trip basically." But he's had interesting talks not only with the BAP but also with the PBA, which should be grist for another column.

So stick around, fellas.

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JASON KIDD. Mr. Clutch delivers again, burying three pressure-packed free throws in the last nine seconds.

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Jason Kidd turned in another clutch performance draining four free throws in the final seconds to give the Jersey Nets a 77-76 win over the San Antonio Spurs on Wednesday.

With the victory, the Nets pull even at 2-2 in the best-of-seven NBA finals series.

As the seconds ticked off the scoreboard clock the capacity crowd of 19,280 stood in wild celebration, basking in the first ever finals win at Continental Airlines Arena.

The victory will come as a huge relief for Nets fans after watching their side swept from last year's championship by the Los Angeles Lakers and absorb an 84-79 loss in Game Three Sunday.

The Nets will have an opportunity to make it back-to-back wins with Game Five scheduled for the Meadowlands on Friday before the series shifts back to San Antonio for Game Six on Sunday.

With no team having ever clawed back from a 3-1 deficit to capture the NBA crown, the game took on a do-or-die feel for the Nets.

After a disappointing Game Three, Kidd's reputation of following up a poor performance with a brilliant one ran true to form, the all-star guard stamping his mark on the contest with a 16-point, 9-assist, 8-rebound effort.

Kenyon Martin also came up with his best effort of the series when it mattered most, hitting a game high 20 for the Nets and providing a menacing defensive presence.

"This was a must win, we know that coming in," Martin said.

"We knew we had to give a maximum effort and we did on both ends.

"We kind of relaxed a bit when we got up 15 and let them get back in the game.

"We just had to get our focus back and we did. It was huge for us to get this thing 2-2."

Pressure-packed

With the game and perhaps the series hanging in the balance, Martin dropped two free throws with 1:12 to play, pushing the Nets in front 73-72.

After that it was Kidd who handled the rest of the Nets' scoring, the all-star guard draining four pressure-packed free throws in the last nine seconds to provide the margin of victory, after two-time league MVP Tim Duncan hit a short jumper at the buzzer.

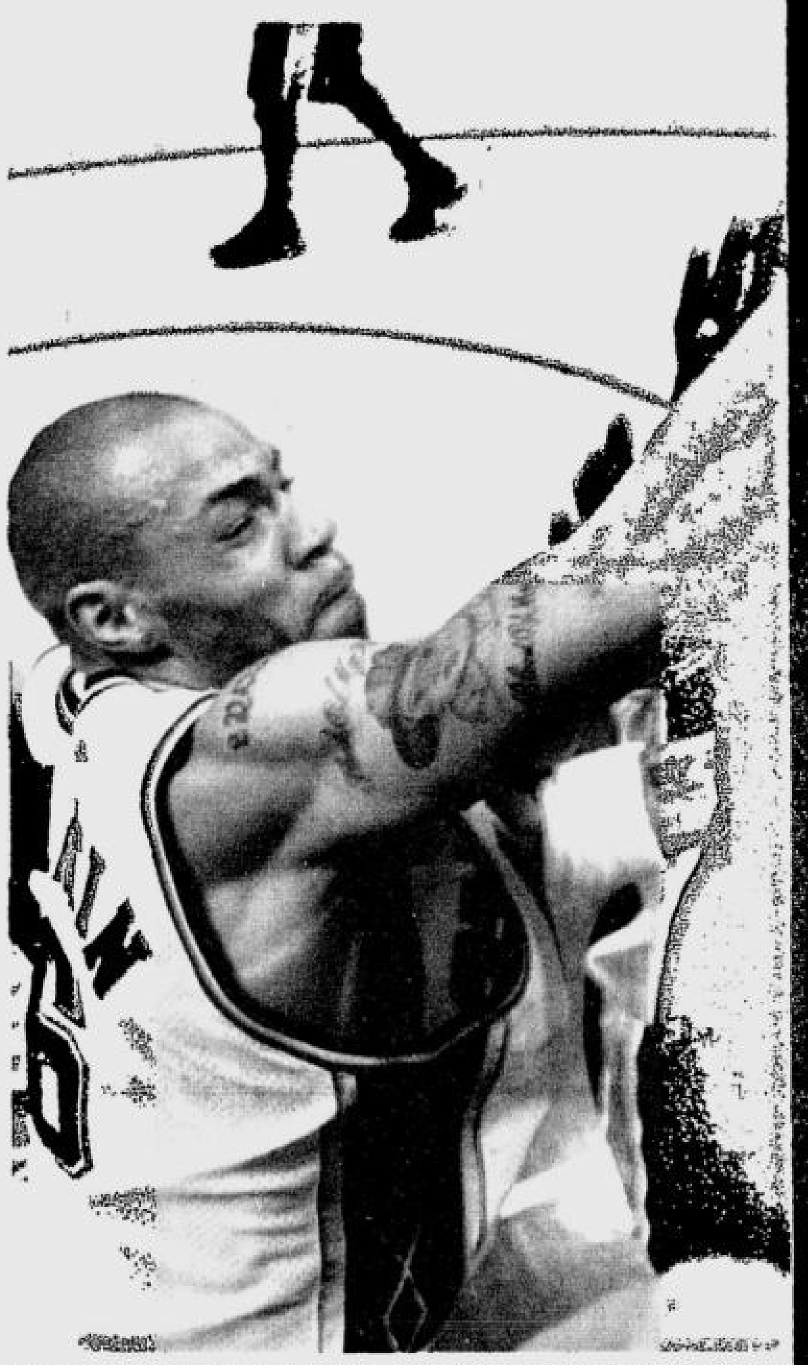
"This was a big game for us tonight," said Kidd, who also turned in a clutch 30-point effort in the Nets Game Two win.

"But if this was a big game tonight then Game Five is going to be even bigger because whatever team wins, that is in control of the series.

"For us Game Five is just as big as tonight because now we can put ourselves in position to take the lead going down to San Antonio.

"This group has been through a lot but when it's time to get a stop or make a basket, we have always been able to do that."

The erratic shooting seen in Game Three spilled over into Game four with both sides struggling to make shots, particularly the Spurs, who finished the night shooting a dismal 29 percent from the field, the third lowest in NBA finals history.



NEW Jersey Nets' Kenyon Martin (left) and San Antonio Spurs' Kevin Willi

Early lead

Paced by 10 points from Duncan, the Spurs slipped into an 18-16 first quarter lead. But San Antonio sputtered in the second when Duncan and their other big man David Robinson both found themselves in foul trouble.

With San Antonio's "Two Towers" on the bench, the Nets' fastbreak offense began to click, Kidd seizing control engineering a 14-2 run to end the quarter and send the Nets into the intermission to a thundering ovation and a 45-34 lead.

A rim-rattling dunk from Richard Jefferson to start the second half, allowed the Nets to maintain the momentum surging in front 51-36 lead.

But the Nets watched that lead vanish as the

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In need of a lift, the
New Jersey Devils, their

Defense does it f

'Chasing Tony [Parker] around wears on you, offensively and defensively, so we made a little adjustment'

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—All the New Jersey Nets needed to do to shut down Tony Parker was make a split-second decision on the run.

With about three minutes remaining in the first quarter of Game 4 of the NBA Finals, Jason Kidd turned to Kerry Kittles and said "You take him."

The switch worked to perfection as the quicker and faster Kittles got in Parker's face and limited the Spurs' guard to three points on 1-for-12 shooting in the Nets' victory that evened the series.

"That allowed me to play 47 minutes," said Kidd, who scored 16 points, including four free throws in the final 9.1 seconds.

"Chasing Tony around wears on you, offensively and defensively," said Kidd, who had nine assists and eight rebounds. "So we made a little adjustment to give me a chance to play off the ball. Kerry was the reason for him taking some tough shots."

Parker, who outplayed Kidd in the point guard matchup in the Spurs' wins in Games 1 and 3, blamed himself more than crediting Kittles.

"We didn't play well," he said. "We didn't compete for 48 minutes. We missed a lot of layups. We just have to come back strong next game."

Nets coach Byron Scott thought Kittles played extremely well.

"Kerry is longer and gives a different look," Scott said.

While the Nets won, they didn't play that much better than the Spurs. They did all the little things with the game on the line.

They held San Antonio to two baskets in the final 4:33 and they got two big offensive rebounds in the final 33 seconds, the biggest being Dikembe Mutombo's rebound of a miss by Kidd.

"That rebound was big, very big," said Mutombo, who also made San Antonio's Tim Duncan work a lot harder than he would have liked on the offensive end. "I think that sealed the game tonight. It was a matter of getting one more rebound and getting to the free throw line."

Actually, it was two more offensive rebounds and the Spurs helped on the second.

Kidd missed another jumper with the Nets clinging to a 73-72 lead with about 10 seconds to go.

Duncan and Manu Ginobili both jumped for the ball and knocked it out of each other's hands. The Nets got the ball and Kidd was fouled by Ginobili, hitting both free throws for a 75-72 lead with 9.1 seconds left.

"That is extremely disappointing," Spurs center David Robinson said of the miscues on the defensive boards. "We just lost an offensive board to put our-

Van Gundy is new Rockets coach

HOUSTON—Jeff Van Gundy took over as coach of the Houston Rockets on Wednesday, returning to the sidelines less than two years after abruptly leaving the New York Knicks.

VAN GUNDY AP

Van Gundy, seated between owner Les Alexander and general manager Carroll Dawson, was formally introduced at the site of Houston's new downtown arena, where the Rockets will play next season.

"This to me was a good fit," Van Gundy said. "I just feel that this was right for me at this time in my life."

The Rockets agreed to give the New York Knicks a second-round draft pick as compensation for Van Gundy.

Van Gundy succeeds Rudy Tomjanovich, who stepped down last month after 12 years as coach. He won two NBA titles, one against the Knicks in 1994 when Van Gundy was an assistant under Pat Riley.

Van Gundy takes over a team that hasn't reached the playoffs in four seasons, but is blessed with two huge building blocks in center Yao Ming, runner-up in rookie of the year voting last season, and guard Steve Francis, eager to make the playoffs for the first time in his pro career.

S STOP SPURS IN NASTY GAME 4

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Nets got one from the
room mates at the Continental Airlines Arena appearing on court with the Stanley Cup they won two days earlier with a Game Seven victory over the Anaheim Mighty Ducks.

With the Arena now crackling with energy, movie star Bruce Willis rose for his courtside seat and grabbed the microphone leading a cheer of "Let's go Nets" as New Jersey slipped back in front 67-66.

"It took a lot of heart tonight," Nets coach Byron Scott said. "We had a big lead and let it get away but just continued to play and showed the heart of a champion."

The Nets survived an 11-point third quarter that was just the start of their troubles.

They shot 36 percent. They blew a 15-point lead. They didn't have a basket in the final four minutes. They allowed Ginobili to get open on the final inbounds play.

But their woes were nothing compared to the Spurs' miserable offensive performance. San Antonio shot 29.8 percent (26-of-90)—the third-worst shooting game in NBA Finals history. Duncan had 23 points, 17 rebounds and seven blocks, but Tony Parker's 1-for-12 performance lowlighted an erratic team effort.

Put them together, and it's no wonder Martin left the court shrugging his shoulders and grinning sheepishly. There have been only three lower-scoring games in the finals since the advent of the shot clock in 1954.

"Shooting was a little bit of a problem," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said.

Added Nets coach Byron Scott: "We struggled offensively, but the good thing is, so did they, the whole game."

After Martin won his low-post battle with Duncan, New Jersey stayed ahead by controlling the ball for 45 straight seconds during the final minute. The Nets got two offensive rebounds before Kidd made two free throws with 9.1 seconds left for a three-point lead.

After a quick jumper by Duncan and two more free throws by Kidd in the hushed arena, the Spurs executed a pretty cross-court inbounds pass. Ginobili got a clear look at the basket after a pump-fake, but the Argentine guard barely got it to the rim, where Kidd swatted it away.

Duncan made a jumper as time expired—but San Antonio needed three points to tie, not two.

The Nets and the Spurs have played two of the seven lowest-scoring finals games since the invention of the shot clock. Those games have included two of the lowest-scoring quarters in finals history, both by the Nets— and they've still made it halfway to the franchise's first NBA title.

"This was a big-time win," Scott said. "It ties the series—a series a lot of people thought wasn't going to be a series. Now, it's just the best two-out-of-three."

The Spurs got dreadful performances from four key players. Parker, Stephen Jackson (1-for-9), Bruce Bowen (2-for-9) and Malik Rose (0-for-9) combined to go 4-for-39 (10.2 percent).

David Robinson had 14 points and seven rebounds—and also had strong words for Parker, the 21-year-old point guard who had three points after getting 26 in Game 3.

"Tony has to do a better job of staying involved in the game and choosing his moments," Robinson said. "I don't think Tony did a very good job of that tonight. He's got to understand he plays a big role for us, so he has to come in there and make good things happen. You don't make good things happen by necessarily standing out there and taking ill-advised jump shots."

In the two days between games in New Jersey, the Nets' coaches and top brass complained vehemently about the free-throw disparity favoring the Spurs. It seemed to work: Duncan, Parker, Rose and Robinson had 11 total fouls in the first half, while Jefferson and Martin were able to attack the basket with a passion rarely seen from them in this series.

With its fast break finally in high gear, New Jersey led by 15 in the third quarter after closing the first half with a 14-2 run. But the Nets then missed 11 straight shots as the Spurs made a 16-0 run spanning the third and fourth. *AP*

or NJ

selves in a tough position and then we gave the second one away. You just feel like kicking yourself, like 'What are we doing? Do we want to win this game?'"

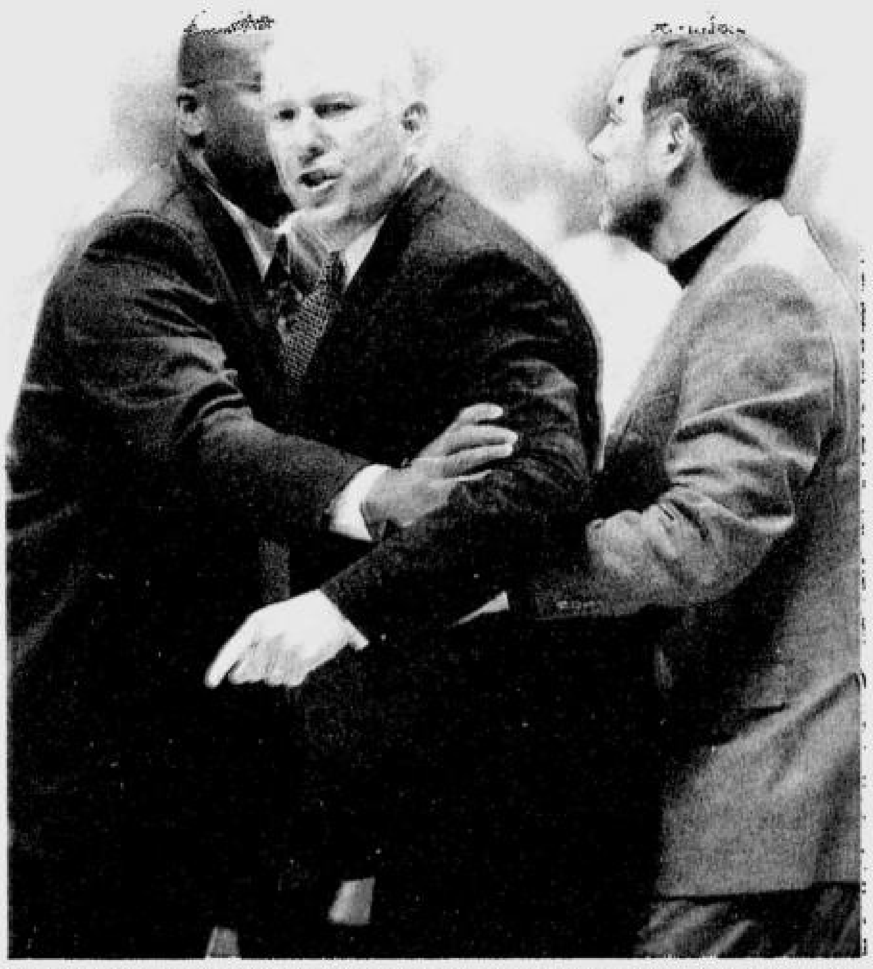
Duncan then scored San Antonio's first basket in more than four minutes with a shot in the lane to cut the Nets lead to 75-74.

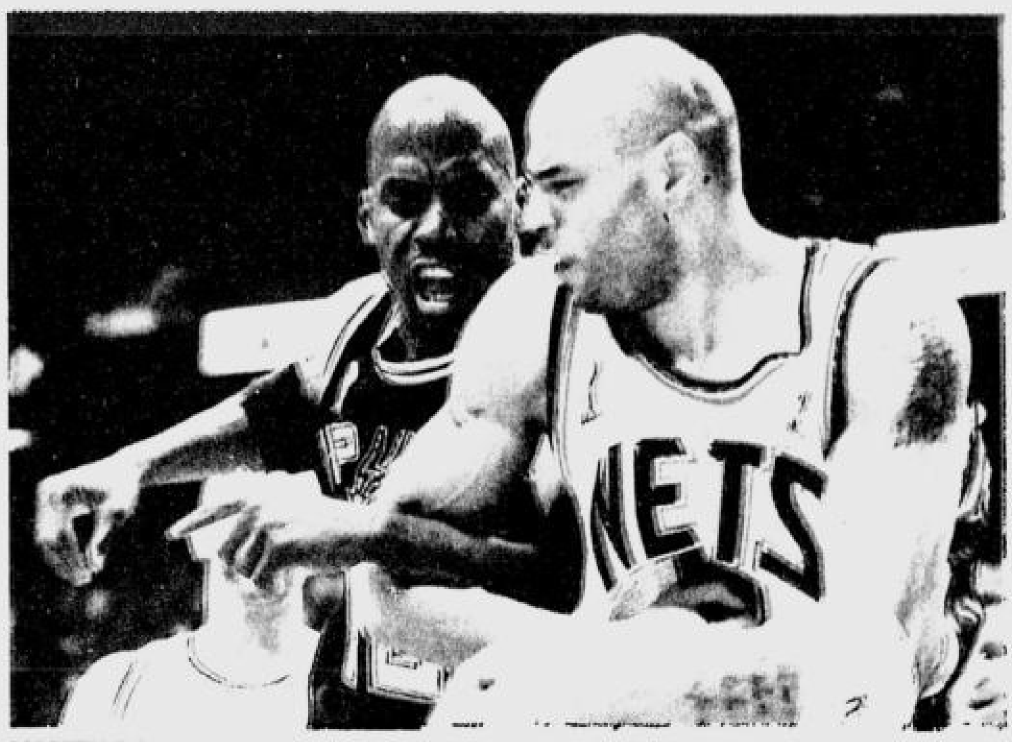
Kidd made two free throws after being fouled on the ensuing inbounds play. The Spurs then set up for the final shot and the Nets defense messed up by leaving Ginobili wide open. Like teammate Stephen Jackson in Game 2 with the game on the line, he missed a 3-pointer.

"We feel pretty good," Kittles said. "We're confident in what we can do. We feel we haven't played our best ball yet. We're not shooting the ball particularly well. Defensively we've been really strong and that's what's carrying us."

New Jersey held San Antonio to 28.9 percent shooting (26-of-90). Malik Rose was 0-for-9, Jackson 1-for-9 and Ginobili 3-for-10.

This was the first time this season the Nets have been held under 90 points four straight games.


SAN Antonio coach Gregg Popovich (center) is restrained by his assistants as he argues a call before receiving a technical foul. GETTY IMAGES


MARTIN fights for possession with the Spurs' Kevin Willis at the low post. AFP

'All the banging is great'

RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—The NBA final is down to best-of-three and the series is getting a little nasty.

That scenario is just fine with Kenyon Martin.

"All the banging is great, I don't mind at all," Martin said. "We're trying to be aggressive, whether it's banging or running, we're going to be aggressive doing it."

There was a lot of rough play as both the Nets and Spurs were assessed technical fouls in the bitterly contested, low-scoring game where emotions were running high throughout.

Martin is a player with a reputation for volatile behavior, but he channeled his emotions into a strong performance, leading the Nets with 20 points and 13 rebounds.

"I was in attack mode, getting to the rim, attacking guys and I did a decent job of it," Martin said.

His coach Byron Scott agreed.

"That was sheer determination," Scott said of Martin's play, especially when he survived two Tim Duncan blocks and hung in to get two free throws late in the second half.

"He was not going to be denied. Every time he got blocked, he just out-muscled and out-hustled people to get back.

TONY PARKER: Shut down. REUTERS

'Maximum effort' pays off for Scott

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—"This series is going to be played like this pretty much the whole series. Might as well get used to it," so says Nets coach Byron Scott.

He believes it's going to be a defensive battle.

"It's going to be low-scoring—and you're not talking about teams that can't score. It's maximum effort on our part," Scott adds, echoing forward Kenyon Martin.

Tim Duncan's final basket came after Manu Ginobili's 3-point attempt moments earlier was short as Kidd's hand brushed against the net. Spurs coach Gregg Popovich ran onto the court to ask the referees whether Kidd had goaltended.

"It was short. It just grazed off the front. The guy that hit the net didn't have anything to do with it," Popovich said.

It was a strange ending to what was easily the most emotional and physical game of the series.

Ginobili missed three 3-pointer with 54 seconds remaining, and Dikembe Mutombo grabbed an offensive rebound after the Nets dribbled most of the 24-second clock away. That gave New Jersey a new shot clock with 33 seconds left, and they worked it down to 14 seconds before Kidd tried a contested jumper over Parker.

That shot bounced off the back of the rim and was deflected out to the 3-point line, where Kerry Kittles grabbed it and passed to Kidd, who was fouled.

"The first offensive rebound they just out-hustled us," Robinson said. "On the second, we had two guys fighting for the ball and we kind of gave it back to them.

"You just feel like kicking yourself."

NBA FINALS 2003

San Antonio vs New Jersey

Spurs 2, Nets 2

Game 1: San Antonio 101, New Jersey 89
Game 2: New Jersey 87, San Antonio 85
Game 3: San Antonio 84 , New Jersey 79
Game 4: New Jersey 77, San Antonio 76
Game 5 at New Jersey (June 14, 8:30 a.m.)
*Game 6 at San Antonio (June 16, 8:30 a.m.)
*Game 7 at San Antonio (June 19, 8:30 a.m.)

*IF NECESSARY
(MANILA TIME, 2-3-2 FORMAT)

SPORTS noodle

Bong Barrameda Vol. I No. 016

NBA Finals

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.
o True / o False: Among players in the current NBA Finals, Steven Jackson is the only one to have spent time with both the San Antonio Spurs and the New Jersey Nets.

2 > 5 Pts.
Named after a former NBA commissioner, what's the trophy awarded to the winner of the Finals?
o Maurice Podoloff Trophy
o Larry O'Brien Trophy

3 > 7 Pts.
Which coach holds the all-time NBA record of 9 league titles?
o Red Auerbach
o Phil Jackson
o Both of the above

4 > 10 Pts.
Who owns the Finals single-game record of 40 rebounds, which he achieved on two occasions?
o Bill Russell
o Wilt Chamberlain
o Bill Walton

5 > 20 Pts.
Against which team did Michael Jordan set an all-time Finals scoring average of 41.0 ppg?
o L.A. Lakers
o Phoenix Suns
o Portland Trailblazers
o Utah Jazz

6 > 25 Pts.
Magic Johnson had nine of the Top 15 best-assist games in Finals history, including the highest one with __ assists?
o 17
o 21
o 25
o 29

7 > 30 Pts.
In the seventh and last game of the NBA Finals, he logged-despite a leg injury- a sensational 42 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists -- yet his team still lost. Still, he was voted Finals MVP, making him the only member of a defeated club ever to win the award. Who?

ANSWERS/ A30

TIGER Woods watches his shot as a divot falls from his club on his approach shot to the 18th hole at Olympia Fields Country Club on the final day of practice for the US Open. REUTERS

103RD US OPEN TEES OFF

Tantalizing Tiger ready

OLYMPIA FIELDS, Illinois—When Tiger Woods tees off to start his quest for a third US Open title, he'll be prepared for the galleries, the expectations and the tension.

"Every single player I've played with has made a mistake because of the pressure and so have I," Woods said. "The beauty of playing in a major is we have to overcome our mistakes,"

The course at the Olympia Fields is a typical US Open layout, featuring tough roughs, deep bunkers and quick greens. That's why low scores aren't expected. With the exception of Woods at Pebble Beach three years ago—a record 12-under 272—the US Open champion has been no better than 5 under since 1994.

Will the rest of 155 players set to begin play Thursday in the 103rd Open be chasing Tiger, who has won three tournaments this year but none since Bay Hill in March?

"A lot of guys are playing well—not just Tiger," Mark O'Meara said. "And this will bring a lot of players into the mix."

That includes Davis Love III, who is enjoying his best season in 11 years with three victories, including the Tournament Players Championship.

And Vijay Singh of Fiji, who has five top 10s in his last six tournaments and a victory in the Byron Nelson Classic.

How about Kenny Perry, the hottest player on tour with back-to-back wins at the Colonial and the Memorial before taking a week off?

Or might this be the week Phil Mickelson—winless this year—breaks through and ends his 0-for-43 drought as a pro in the majors?

And there's also two-time Open winner Ernie Els of South Africa, who's in the same opening-round threesome with Woods and US Amateur champion Ricky Barnes.

Els won the US Open at Oakmont in 1994, beating Loren Roberts and Scotland's Colin Montgomerie in a tense three-way playoff. He was victorious again three years later at Congressional.

"There are two times I can think about pressure. Oakmont was probably the most I ever felt in my life," Els said.

"Don't get me wrong. There is pressure in each and every event, but the majors mean so much more to us as players. And sometimes we get in our own way."

Els has answered his fair share of Tiger-related questions over the years, but says beating Woods is not his main motivation. Winning is. *AP*

US Open live telecast

SOLAR Sports will telecast the US Open golf championships live starting at 1 a.m. until 7 a.m. today (Friday, June 13) on RPN-9, with a replay at 8-10 p.m. The Saturday telecast will also be at 1-7 a.m., with a replay at 9-11 p.m., while Sunday's telecast will be at 1-8 a.m., with a replay at 9-11 p.m. The final round on Monday will be aired live from 2-8 a.m., with a replay at 8-10 p.m.

Big hitters are biggest threat

OLYMPIA FIELDS, Illinois—Golf's power hitters threaten to rip the Olympia Fields course apart here this week admitted the US Golf Association's top officials here on the eve of the 103rd US Open.

Big-hitting Phil Mickelson and Darren Clarke have both warned that they will use the driver a lot more on the par-70 course and attack than they would normally do on a US Open layout.

Such a game plan is normally fatal for a US Open set-up but with the greens soft and slower than wanted because of the weather and the rough not the usual brutal equalizer for the shorter more accurate hitters, an all out attack policy could pay off this week.

"Obviously we'd like to see the greens a little firmer but with the lack of sunshine and the little bit of rain we have had that's been difficult," said USGA vice-president Fred Ridley.

But it is the rough that will allow Mickelson and Clarke to take a driver off the tee.

"The rough now is about four inches," said Ridley.

However it is not the height but the thickness that makes the US Open rough infamous and this year's players, instead of having their clubs caught up in it, will be able to hit out and go for the greens. *AFP*

2 top women chessers out of nat'l pool

THE COUNTRY'S top two female pawnpushers yesterday blasted as false moves their removal from the national pool for questioning how the National Chess Federation (NCFP) of the Philippines is being run.

Top-ranked chesser Sheerie Joy Lomibao and No. 2 Cristine Mariano said they would seek the help of the Philippine Sports Commission and the House Committee on Youth and Sports for what they described as "harassment" by the NCFP management.

Mariano, a Women's International Master, said she found out yesterday that she and Lomibao were no longer included in the June 15 payroll endorsed by NCFP executive director Gene Poliarco to the PSC.

Lomibao and Mariano are getting a monthly allowance of P4,000 as members of the national pool. They had also complained of not getting the P3,000 additional food allowance top stars like Eugene Torre and Mark Paragua are getting.

"They are taking it personally," said the 30-year-old Mariano, who had questioned the NCFP leadership on the disbursement of funds for the World Chess Olympiads in Bled, Slovenia in 2002 and Istanbul, Turkey, in 2000.

But the NCFP said the female chessers were dropped from the payroll because they only attended 12 days of practice last month.

Lomibao, the 23-year-old reigning national women's champion, pointed out, however, that there has never been a scheduled practice in the NCPF and that all the other players are not required to report as long as they compete in tournaments sanctioned by the association.

RP's Little Tiger triumphs

By Jong Arcano

MIGUEL Tabuena, the boy called by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the Little Tiger, proved he deserved to be called one after scoring a big victory in the first event of his long American stint recently.

The eight-year-old Tabuena earned his second international victory this year when he topped the youngest division in the ninth Selma Valley junior golf championships in Selma City, California.

Playing against the same kids he faced in the Junior World in San Diego and the US Kids in Virginia last year, Tabuena showed they're in for a tougher battle this time as he finished with just a three-over-par total for two of his 9-hole rounds per day.

The American entries had treated Tabuena as a non-entity due to his size (a little more than four feet) before the tournament which attracted 150 entries began.

Things changed after the first round as he drew so many kids and grownups around him.

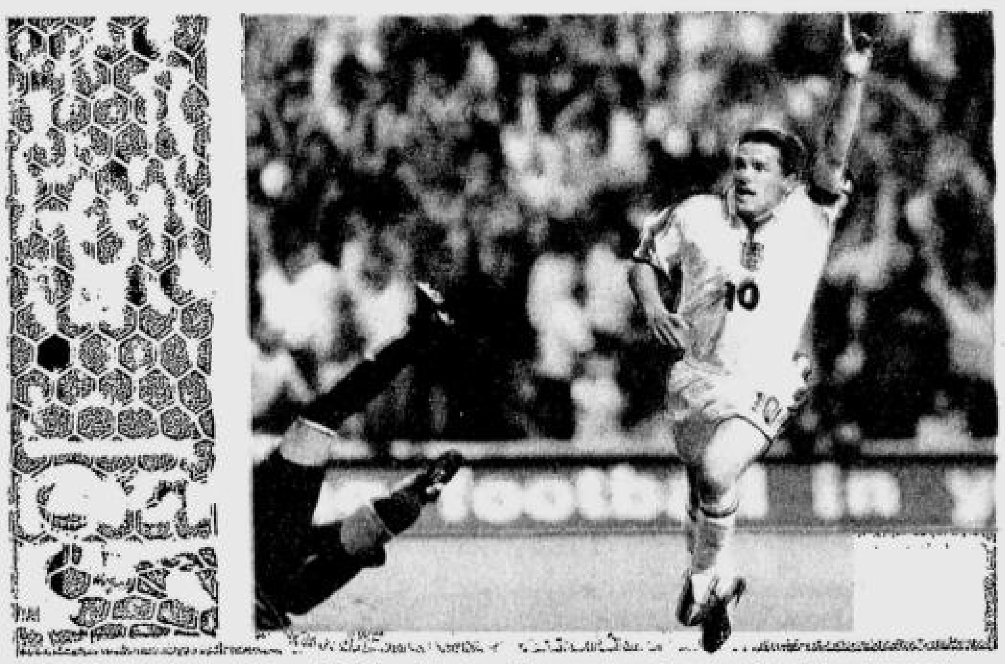
He became an instant hit and crowd-drawer especially in the range. In no time, players in his group were asking who he is and where he's from after watching his well-grooved swing.

The Tabuena family drove three and a half miles from Pasadena to Selma City which is the raisin capital of the United States.

Selma was the first stop in a series of major jungolf events Tabuena is scheduled to join in the summer while he's on a break from his studies at the International School.

He is scheduled to fly to Illinois for the Pepsi Little People next week before preparing for his main mission—the Junior World set in San Diego in the middle of next month. From San Diego, he goes to Williamsburg, Virgina where he placed second last year.

MIGUEL Tabuena acknowledges cheers from the crowd of the Riviera golf and Country Club. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO



ENGLAND'S Michael Owen (right) celebrates his second goal against Slovakia as keeper Miroslav Konig fails to keep his header out of the net. England won 2-1. REUTERS

England, Italy booters prevail

LONDON—Turkey, England, Italy and Greece picked up key victories in Euro 2004 qualifying on Wednesday.

Germany also won—but barely.

The World Cup finalists from a year ago needed an 89th-minute goal from Miroslav Klose and another a minute later by Fredi Bobic for a 2-0 victory at the tiny Faeroe Islands.

Spain suffered its second shock in five days in Group 6.

After losing 1-0 to Greece on Saturday, the 2002 World Cup quarterfinalists slumped to a 0-0 draw at Northern Ireland—which now has failed to score in just under 1,000 minutes of play.

That left surprising Greece atop Group 6.

The Greeks won 1-0 at home over Ukraine on Angelos Charisteas' goal in the 87th. Spain's miserable draw left Greece leading with 12 points, with Spain on 11 and Ukraine with nine.

Turkey rallied for a 3-2 come-from-behind victory over Macedonia to maintain its lead in Group 7 and guarantee finishing first or second in the group. Hakan Sukur got the winner in the 60th minute. *AP*

SPORTS noodle

ANSWERS **From page A28**

1. True
2. Larry O'Brien Trophy
3. Both of the above
4. Bill Russell (1960 and 1962)
5. Phoenix Suns (1993)
6. 21 (Los Angeles vs. Boston on June 3, 1984)
7. Jerry West of the L.A. Lakers (1969 - beaten by the Boston Celtics)

Manotocs help W'Wack save draw with Forest

HOW THEY Stand

Group I: 4 Eastridge, 4 Manila Golf, 2 Mimosa 2 Southwoods, 0 Highlands

Group II: 4 Forest Hills, 3 Alabang, 2, Valley, 1 Wack Wack, 0 Orchard, 0 John Hay

Group III: 7 Northwoods, 6 Malarayat, 5 Canlubang, 4 Riviera, 1 Sta. Elena, 0 Sherwood Hills

WACK WACK, getting a big lift from Tommy Manotoc and his son Matthew, held powerhouse Forest Hills to a big 2-2 draw even as Eastridge ended the early streak of defending champion Manila Golf Club in the Federation Golf League matches over the weekend.

Tommy paired with Jun Lim to give their best-ball rivals a 4 and 3 trashing and Matthew helped John Gobing salvage a draw in the aggregate duel as Wack Wack earned its first point after losing its initial assignment in Group II.

Forest Hills' Raffy Garcia and Gary Uy proved too much for their high-low opponents and both teams also split the point in the scramble format for the draw.

Riviera also earned two wins to boost its qualifying hopes in Group III.

Pepot Iñigo shot the first hole-in-one of the season with a Taylor Made RAC 9-iron on the 17th hole of Langer to highlight Riviera's 3-1 thumping of Sherwood Hills.

The Silang-based golfers returned to pull off a similar 3-1 conquest of Sta. Elena to gain four points in their division where Royal Northwoods and Mt. Mt. Malarayat are showing the way with seven and six points, respectively.

Northwoods stretched its streak to three after winning an outing on the road against Canlubang, which took its second loss in four games but remained in third place in Group III.

Eastridge earned a share of the lead in Group I following a 3-1 demolition of Manila Golf.

Erwin Temeña-Tito Eusebio (high-low), Ping delos Santos-Hiroshi Koyanagi (aggregate) and Ferdie Aunzo-Leb Vicente (scramble) scored for Eastridge while Philip Romualdez-Manoling Chan averted a sweep by snatching the best-ball match.

Eastridge matched the four-point aggregate of Manila Golf with both teams leading Mimosa and Southwoods by two. *Jong Arcano*

45-YEAR STREAK ENDS

6 Astros pitchers no-hit Yankees

NEW YORK—For 45 years, no one had no-hit the New York Yankees. To break that streak, the Houston Astros needed a record six pitchers.

After ace Roy Oswalt was injured in the second inning, Pete Munro, Kirk Saarloos, Brad Lidge, Octavio Dotel and Billy Wagner finished off the 8-0, no-hit victory Wednesday.

"First appearance for most of us in Yankee Stadium," Wagner said. "What better place could there be?"

It was the most pitchers ever to combine on a no-hitter in the majors—four had twice done the trick. The Yankees had gone 6,980 games—the longest streak in big league history—without being no-hit, since Hoyt Wilhelm's 1-0 victory for Baltimore on Sept. 20, 1958.

Since then, the proud franchise had won nine World Series titles and 15 American League pennants.

But all that ended on a muggy late-spring night. The last time New York had been held hitless at Yankee Stadium was on Aug. 25, 1952, by Detroit's Virgil Trucks.

With Yankees fans standing and applauding, Wagner pumped his fist as he stepped on first base to end it. Many of the Astros ran onto the field to give high-fives while the Yankees couldn't clear out of the dugout fast enough.

"This is one of the worst games I've ever been involved in," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "It was a total, inexcusable performance."

Torre called it the low point for the Yankees since he started managing the club in 1996. New York dropped out of first place in the AL East, falling a half-game behind Boston, and Torre held a team meeting after the loss.

"Tonight was an ugly, ugly performance," he said. "Once things started snowballing, I think we lost our composure."

The closest New York came to a hit was in the fifth against Saarloos, when Alfonso Soriano sent a fly ball into short left field. Lance Berkman, who hit a two-run run homer in the third, ran in, stuck out his glove and made a tumbling catch.

"It wasn't that close," Berkman said. "It probably looked more spectacular than it really was."

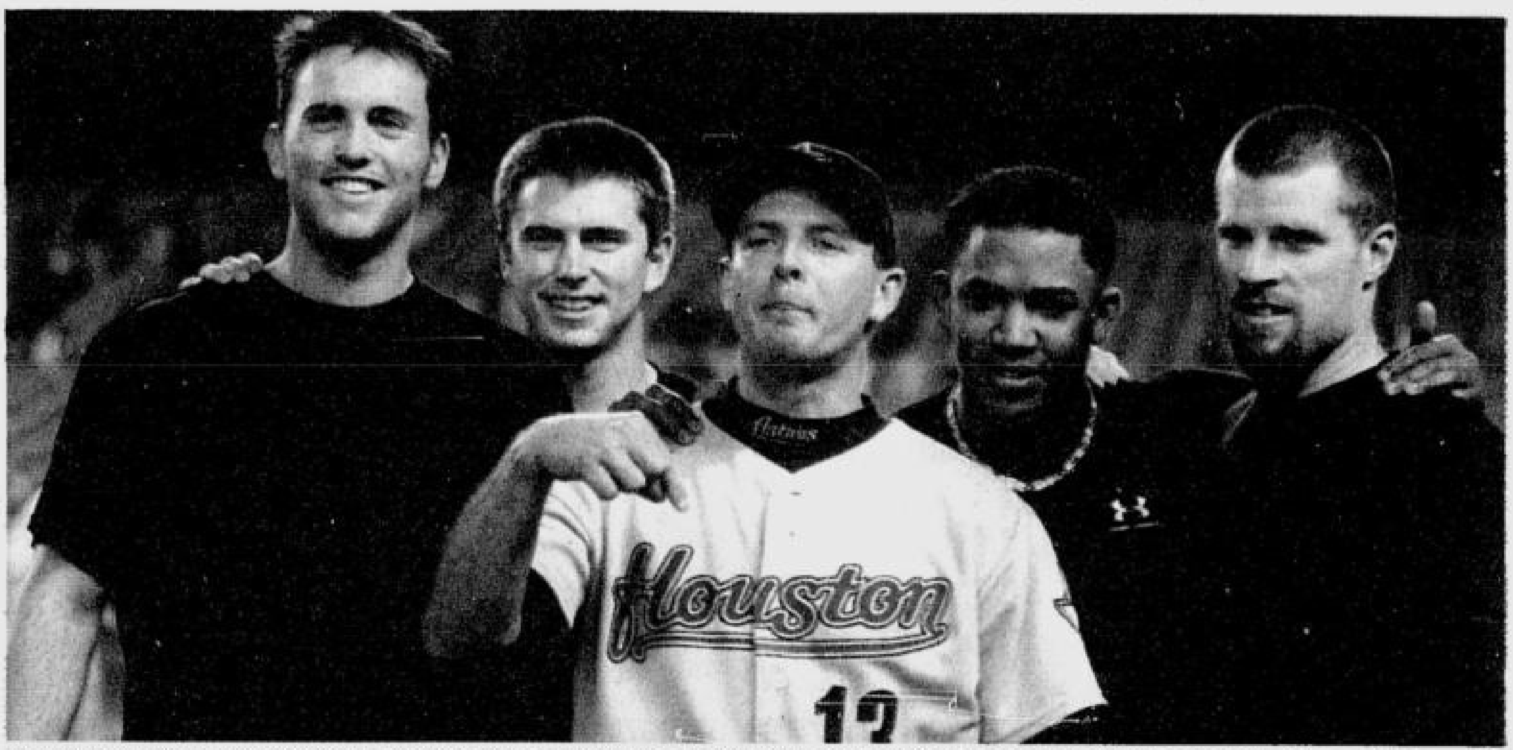
Third baseman Geoff Blum made a barehanded pickup on Juan Rivera in the third ad threw him out at first.

"One guy usually goes out there and does it," Astros manager Jimy Williams said. "Maybe two, but not six."

Astros pitchers combined for 13 strikeouts, including four by Dotel in the eighth, which tied the major league record for an inning. Soriano reached when he struck out on a wild pitch. *AP*

COMPLETE RESULTS

INTERLEAGUE—Chicago Cubs 7, Baltimore 6; Boston 13, St. Louis 1; Cleveland 3, San Diego 2; Los Angeles 3, Detroit 1; Houston 8, NY Yankees 0; Toronto 8, Pittsburgh 5; Cincinnati 7, Tampa Bay 6; San Francisco 11, Chi White Sox 4; Minnesota 7, Colorado 4; NY Mets 8, Texas 2; Arizona 4, Kansas City 3; Anaheim 5, Philadelphia 3; Atlanta 11, Oakland 6; Montreal 3, Seattle 1; NATIONAL LEAGUE—Florida 6, Milwaukee 5.



HOUSTON Astros relievers (from left) Brad Lidge, Kirk Saarloos, Billy Wagner, Octavio Dotel and Pete Munro celebrate after combining with starter Roy Oswalt to throw a no-hitter against the New York Yankees at Yankee Stadium in New York Wednesday. The Astros won 8-0. AP

Sosa begins suspension

BALTIMORE—Sammy Sosa thrilled the fans at Camden Yards with a wonderful display of power during batting practice.

The Chicago Cubs slugger drew loud cheers as he sent one ball after another into the seats.

After that, however, he was done for the day.

On Wednesday, he began a seven-game suspension for using a corked bat, a penalty reduced by one game after his appeal Tuesday.

Sosa refused to talk to the media before Chicago's game against the Baltimore Orioles, but the Cubs seemed satisfied with the ruling. *AP*

RP aces join Manila Marathon

LONG-DISTANCE aces Roy Vence, Allan Ballester and Crisanto Canillo have signed up for the Manila Marathon as they intensify their buildup for the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games this December.

Considered as the top three in RP marathon, Vence, Ballester and Canillo led the latest batch of participants who filled out forms for the June 22 race, which the city of Manila under Mayor Lito Atienza is staging.

Besides the full 42.195-km event starting and ending at Luneta, there will also be races in the 10K, 5K and 3K distances.

Flordeliza Cachero, the Philippines' No. 2 female marathon runner, also registered for the event, a major factor in determining the composition of the country's bets to the Vietnam sportsfest.

There are no registration fees for the inaugural Manila Marathon. Registration centers are the Manila Sports Council (Masco) office inside City Hall and San Andres gym in Malate, Manila, and at the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association office through secretary general Ben Silva Netto at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex. For more details, call 527-0938, 526-1914 or 527-7804 or telefax 5261916.

The Philippine Sports Commission, the government arm for sports development chaired by Eric Buhain, has committed to support the Manila Marathon. Commissioners William Ramirez, Mike Barredo, Leon Montemayor and Ambrosio de Luna will also lend their backing.

Other backers are the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes, the City of Manila's sports arm Masco chaired by Ali Masco, and the Manila Sports Foundation.

Naga hosts regional qualifier June 22

ACTION star Ronnie Ricketts will head over 5,000 runners when the 2003 season of the National Milo Marathon regional eliminations unfold in Naga City on June 22, national organizer Rudy Biscocho and local organizer Pedro Lee announced yesterday.

Ricketts, a Bicolano whose parents hail from Iriga City, confirmed his participation to Lee who said Ricketts' presence will add glitter to the all-Bicolano qualifying race.

Lee, who is also chair of the Naga City Sports Council, said they expect around 10,000 runners to answer the starting gun to be fired by Naga mayor Jesse Robredo at Plaza Quezon.

The top three finishers in the 20K run will represent the region at the Milo National Finals on Oct. 19 in Metro Manila.

Tuñacao battles Indon for WBC Int'l crown

By Salven L. Lagumbay

FORMER world flyweight boxing champion Malcolm Tuñacao takes the limelight again when he fights for the WBC International 115-lb title vacated by the now-retired Gerry Peñalosa.

Tuñacao, 25, ranked No. 4 WBC super flyweight, faces Indonesian Julio Dela Basez for the title on July 19 at a soon-to-be-announced venue, said international promoter Gabriel "Bebot" Elorde Jr.

"This will be a big, triple main event card," Elorde revealed yesterday.

The talented Tuñacao, who hopes to eventually meet WBC super flyweight king Masamori Tokuyama of Japan, holds a 14-1-2 win-loss-draw, with 10 KOs.

In a fight last November, the stylish Mandaue City hitman easily disposed of Japanese Kazuyoshi Niki inside three rounds in Japan.

"*Paningkamotan nako malingaw gyud mga* fans *ani awaya. Ensayado man ko* (I assure fight fans of one explosive performance. I'm ready)," Tuñacao said.

In the scheduled undercard, undefeated Cebuano phenomenon ALA Boy Sherwin Paro (10-0, 7 KOs), a protégé of sportsman Tony Aldeguer now fighting under Marty Elorde, goes for the WBC International flyweight throne against titlist Randy Mangubat, who recently failed to wrest the WBC title against Pongsaklek Wongjongkam.

Paro's manager, Marty Elorde, has already received approval from his brother Bebot to stage the Paro-Mangubat fight.

"I am just awaiting approval now from Mr. Aldeguer," said the youthful Elorde.

Last May 24, the 20-year-old Paro stopped Albert Cesa via second-round demolition at the Ynares Sports Center in Antipolo.

Meanwhile, WBC International 105-lb champ Ernesto Rubillar defends his title in the same card against Indon Iwan Key in another marquee match-up.

Del Rosario sizzles in kegfest

REIGNING Asian Tenpin champion Liza del Rosario captured four of the major titles staked in the women's side of the 32nd Boysen-PBC International Bowling Championships on Wednesday night.

Del Rosario sparkled in the singles, doubles, team and all events at the end of the preliminaries, making her the top challenger to Shalin Zulkifli when the Malaysian begins to defend her Open Masters title at the Green Valley Center in Pasig today.

The Filipina bowler's 946 effort was enough to quell a late charge by Hong Kong's Sarah Yap (934), who settled for second. PBAP's Cecilia Yap landed third.

In the doubles, Del Rosario paired with Irene Benitez to turn back the duo of Zulkifli and Wendy Chan, 891-867, while in the team event, she joined hands with Yap and Liza Clutario to score 1257 and beat the Singaporean trio of Alice Tay, Jennifer Tan and Jesmine Ho (1232).

RACING TIPS RACING TIPS RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO PARK BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Morning After 2. Come In Glory/Kathy Rose 3. Ginger Spice 4. El Magnifico

Race 2—1. Hurricane Doding 2. Free Entrance 3. Joshua Tree 4. Gigi's Gold 5. Classic Native

Race 3—1. Bold Lucky 2. Scene Stealer 3. Time Essential

Race 4—1. Verificado 2. La Signorina 3. Princess Sophia

Race 5—1. Bakasan 2. Vhingget 3. Noble House 4. Arigato 5. Perfect Gift

Race 6—1. May's Magic 2. Jahard 3. Pabuya

Race 7—1. West Bound 2. Puppy Dog Tail 3. Go Ichi 4. Praetorian 5. Ann's Magic 6. Candy's Angel

Race 8—1. Si Isidro Ko 2. Mr. Positive 3. Batang Cabu 4. Ahead of Time/Night Flight

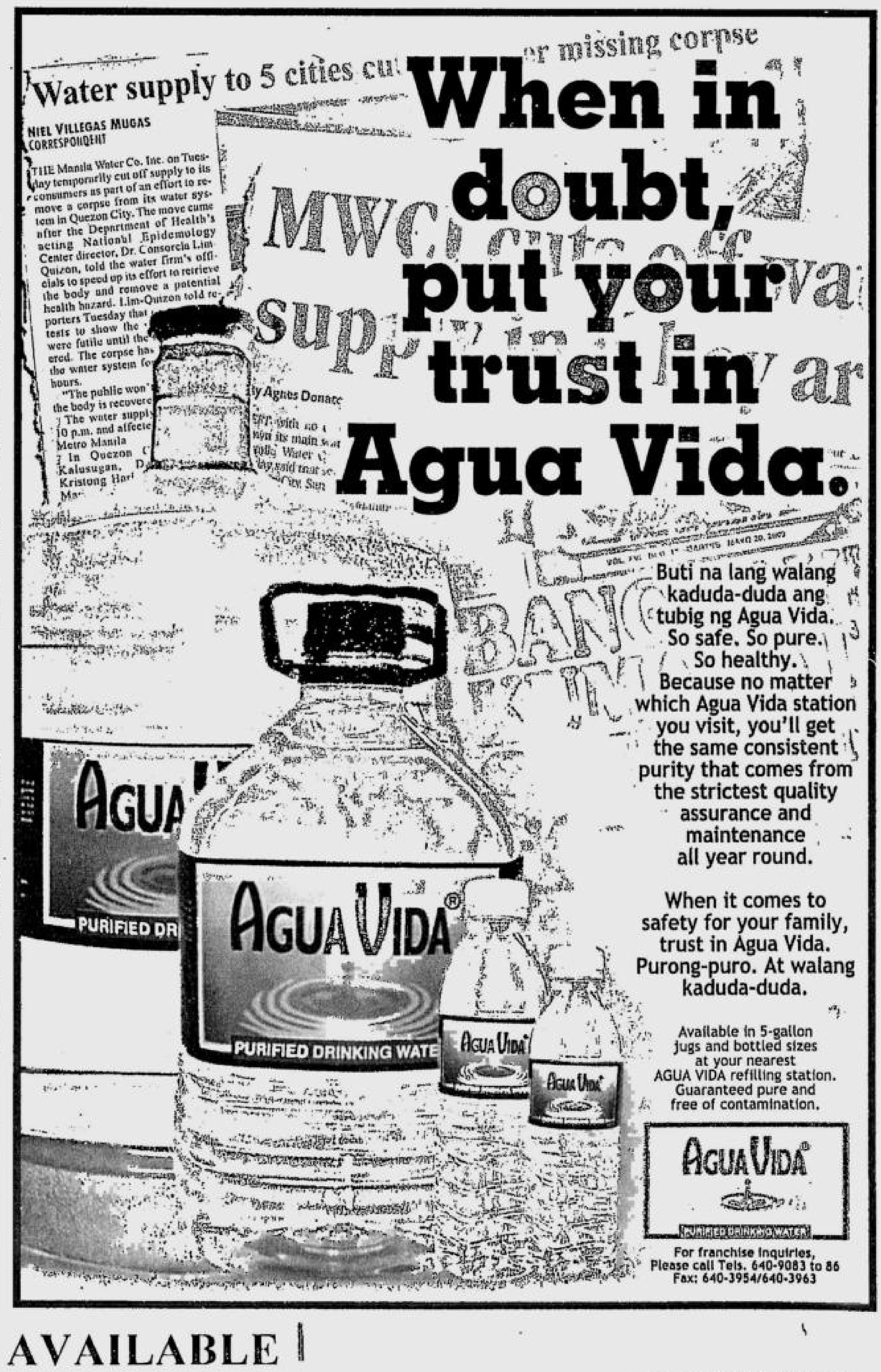
Race 9—1. Siete de Marso 2. Music Express 3. Espirikitik

Race 10—1. High Octane 2. Worth Ur While 3. Summit Power 4. Elusive Quality

Race 11—1. Real Material 2. Capriole 3. Main Street 4. Maging Matalino 5. Tomahawk

Race 12—1. Nag-iisang Ikaw 2. Precious Time 3. Manila Mauler 4. Lucky Gambit

Race 13—1. Musikero 2. Penthouse 3. Nitty Gritty 4. Pep Up 5. Arresbee 6. West Swinger



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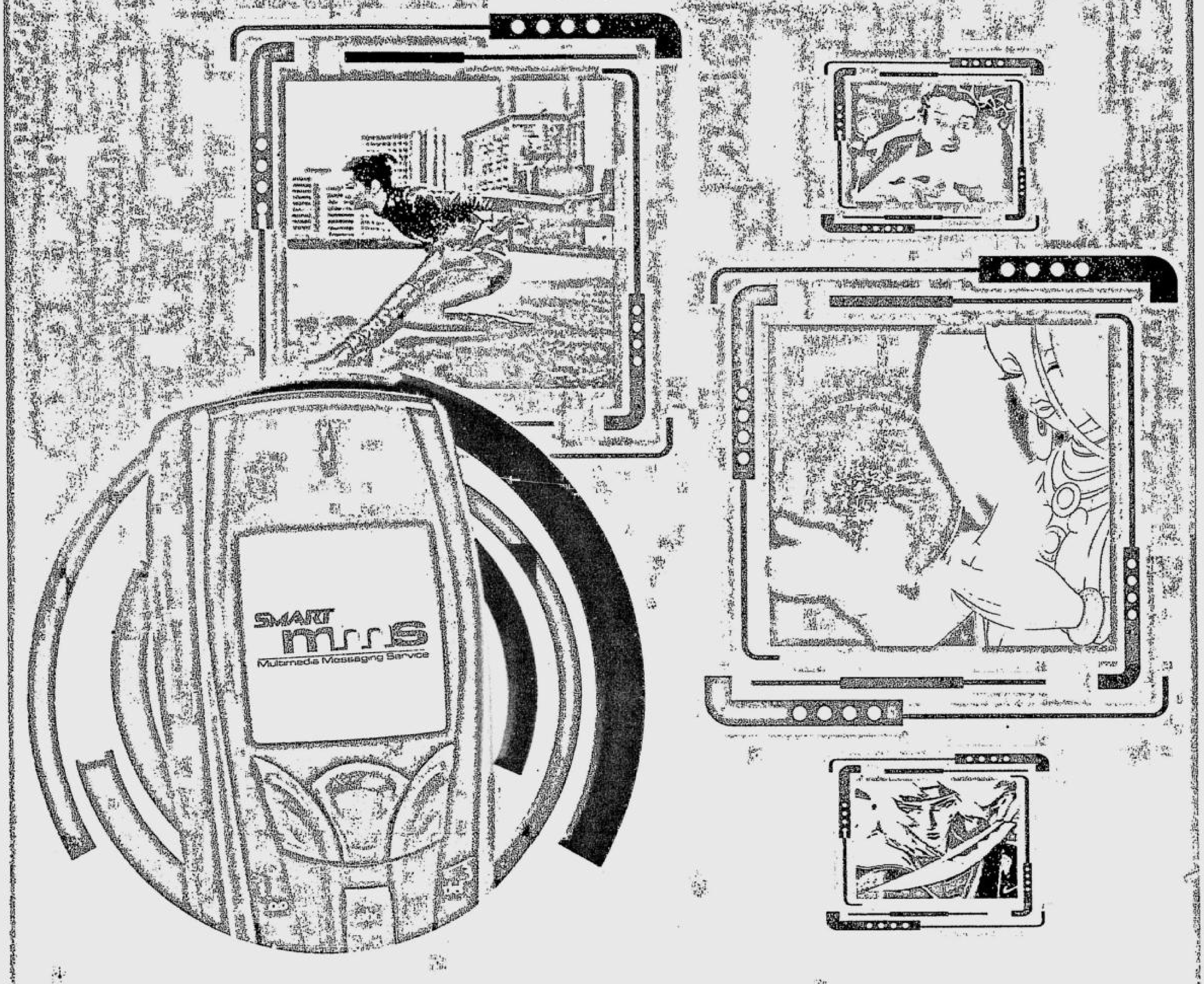

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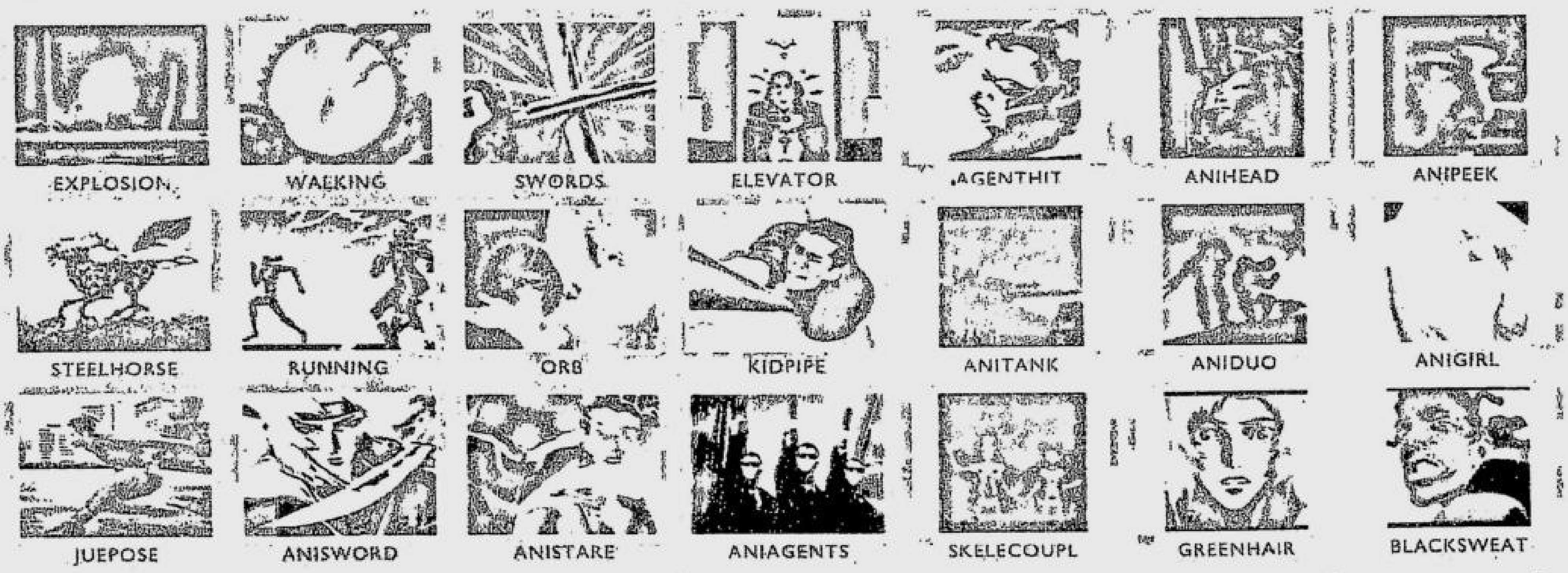

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Fitch downgrades RP credit rating

By Doris C. Dumlao

LONDON-BASED Fitch Ratings yesterday downgraded the Philippines' sovereign long-term foreign currency rating by a notch to "BB" from "BB+," citing concerns over skyrocketing government debt and low tax revenues.

CAMACHO

The credit-rating agency also lowered the country's long-term local currency rating to "BB+" from "BBB" even as it changed its outlook to "stable" from "negative."

"The latter reflects Fitch's judgment that broader macro-economic trends remain favorable with respect to growth, inflation and the external current account balance," Fitch Ratings said in a statement.

"The material deterioration in sovereign creditworthiness is plain to see from the inexorable rise of the national government/revenue ratio at 500 percent, now among the worst of any Fitch-rated sovereign and the rise in interest payments from less than a fifth to over a third of revenue since 1998," said the agency, whose move followed a similar downgrade by Standard & Poor's.

These negative trends in fiscal affairs showed no sign of abating, despite "headline-catching improvements" at the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which accounts for 70 percent of total government revenue, it pointed out.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, on the other hand, said the downgrade was "unfortunate" and "rather untimely" given the country's stronger-than-expected economic performance in the first quarter and the recent turn of events in the government's revenue-generating agencies.

"In particular, both the Internal Revenue and Customs bureaus have been turning in healthy growth rates and exceeding targets each month now, resulting in a year-to-date deficit position that is also ahead of this year's targets," Camacho said.

"We hope that over time, we can alleviate their concerns with the consistent and sustained fiscal performance at the back of a relentless drive to effectively implement reform measures," he said.

Fitch acknowledged that both the revenue and customs bureaus were now headed by "dynamic" and "performance-oriented" individuals.

It also said it was not discounting the long-awaited turnaround in tax revenues seen in the last few months.

However, it argued that even if both agencies could deliver on their 2003 targets, the revenue-to-gross domestic product ratio would remain on a declining trend, falling below 14 percent compared to more than 19 percent in 1997.

"Reversing this decline will require a change in tax policy, which the current administration is unlikely to deliver during its remaining term in office," Fitch Ratings said

It also projected that national government debt would likely hit close to 79 percent of GDP by end-2004, making the Philippines more vulnerable than ever to fluctuations in growth, interest rates and the exchange rate.

Although maturities were well-stretched out, the rating agency noted that half of national debt was now denominated in foreign currencies of which more than half was owed to stockholders. It said this meant that "the Philippines is increasingly susceptible to adverse shifts in investor sentiment."

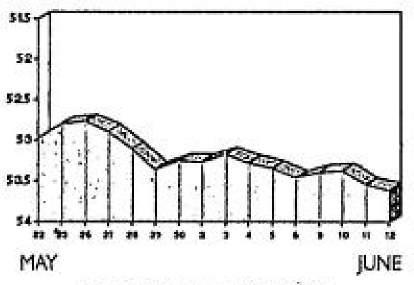
Fitch said it took comfort from the fact that the government has already completed much of its external financing for 2003, but noted that external public debt continued to be complicated by the relentless financial demands of the state-owned National Power Corp.

It said the recent renegotiation of some independent power supply contracts should help reduce losses over time, but warned that privatization could still leave the government with considerable liabilities.

Although this move has long been anticipated by the market, the peso slightly weakened after Fitch announced its downgrade.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P53.61 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 12, 2003

¥117.60 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 12, 2003

GOLD: $355.50/356.00

per ounce Hong Kong, June 12, 2003

INTEREST RATES

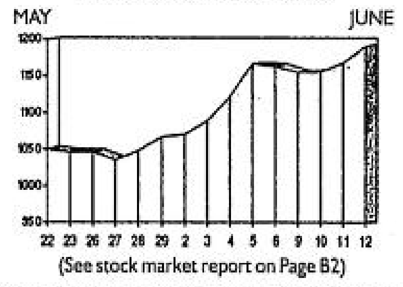
June 12, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 12-Jun-03 (%)	MART1 11-Jun-03 (%)
1 Month	6.2385	5.9942
3 Months	6.2346	5.9538
6 Months	7.2904	6.9481
1 Year	7.5	7.3731
2 Years	8.4904	8.3885
3 Years	9.5635	9.3731
4 Years	10.1346	10.0769
5 Years	10.4808	10.4442
7 Years	11.3135	11.1115
10 Years	11.6039	11.4712
20 Years	12.1654	12.175
25 Years	12.6635	12.6192

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks end sharply higher

SHARE prices closed up 1.91 percent at an 11-month high yesterday on the back of overnight gains in Wall Street and an improved earnings outlook for blue chips, brokers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 22.31 points to 1,191.06. It was the index's highest close since July 1, 2002, when it ended at 1,195.37.

Volume was lower at 433.71 million shares but value rose to P804.49 million from Wednesday's 494.7 million shares valued at P582.67 million.

Gainers outnumbered losers 62 to 12, with 34 stocks unchanged.

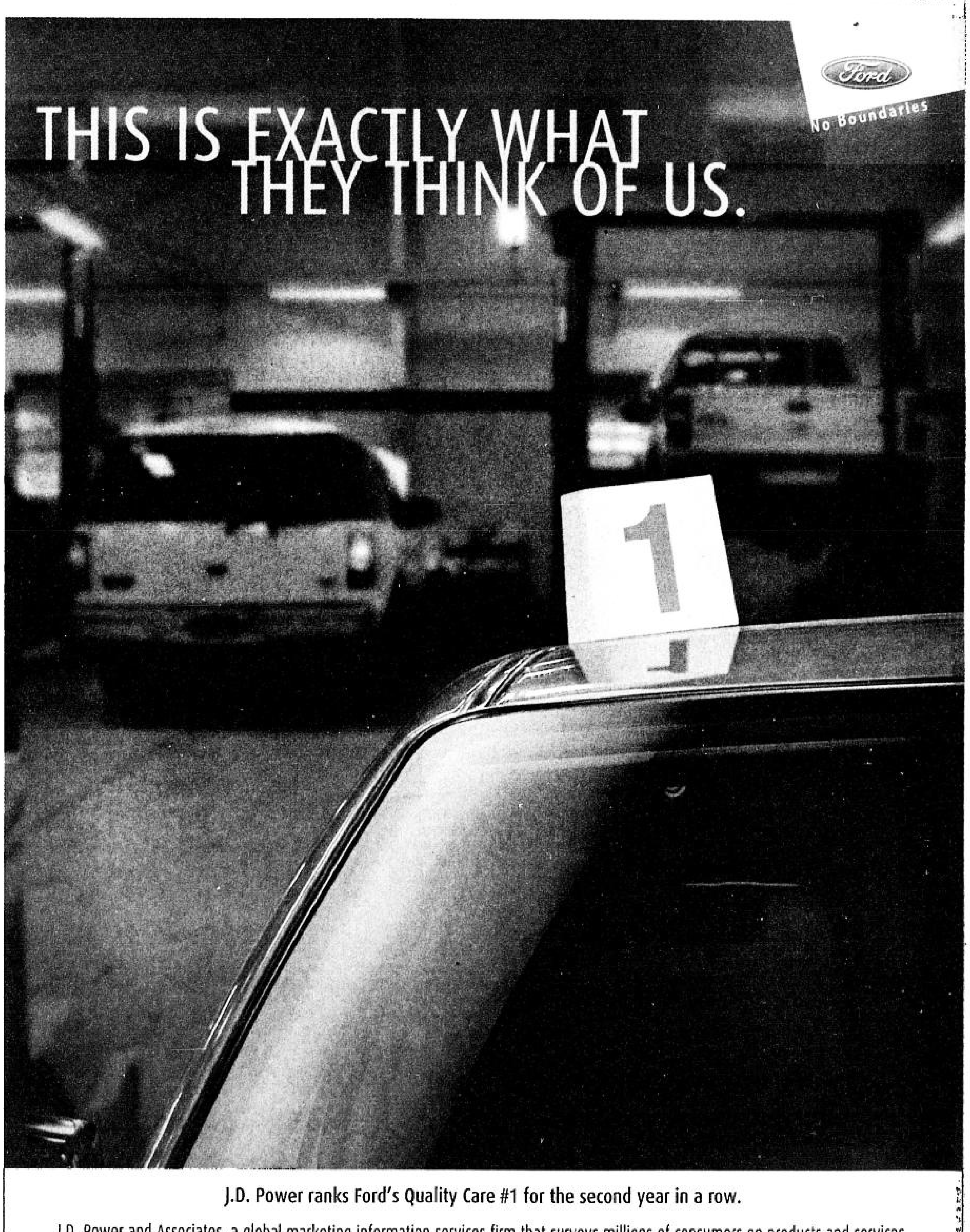
"With the positive corporate earnings outlook, coupled with an improving economic scenario and the global market turnaround, it looks like everything is turning out positive for the market," said Terence Chan of Citiseconline.com.

"Today's gain is simply a continuation of last week's rally. We had expected and we have had healthy profit-taking along the way but overall, sentiment remains upbeat," added Andrew Long of ATR- Kim Eng Securities. *AFP*

RP fund to liquidate assets

NEW YORK—The closed-end First Philippine Fund Inc. said on Wednesday its shareholders approved a plan to liquidate the fund's assets and dissolve the portfolio.

The last day of trading of the fund's shares, which are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, will be June 18, the fund said in a statement. *Reuters*



J.D. Power ranks Ford's Quality Care #1 for the second year in a row.

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JG Summit doubles bond float

By Elena R. Torrijos

STRONG appetite for Philippine debt papers led JG Summit Holdings Inc., the flagship holding company of the Gokongwei family, to double its offshore 5-year bond offering to $300 million.

"The market was so hot for Philippine corporate bonds. Our issue was more than four times oversubscribed," JG Summit director for corporate planning B.J. Sebastian said in an interview yesterday.

From an original coupon of 9.375 percent, keen investor demand also pushed down the coupon of the bigger offer to 8.25 percent. This was 631 basis points over comparable US Treasuries.

JP Morgan Europe acted as bookrunner and issue manager for the bond issue, which attracted about 80 institutional investors mainly from Asia and Europe.

"This is JG Summit Holdings' largest capital market transaction ever, the largest corporate bond from the Philippines in 2003, and has set a new benchmark for Philippine conglomerate issuers," JP Morgan said in a statement issued in Hong Kong late on Wednesday.

Asian investors took up 83 percent of the issue, European clients grabbed 15 percent and the remaining 2 percent went to offshore US accounts, said JP Morgan. Within the Asian allocation, Hong Kong took 37 percent, Singapore 33 percent and the Philippines 13 percent.

By investor type, asset managers accounted for 28 percent of the deal, banks 16 percent, private banking 54 percent and insurance companies 2 percent.

Increasing foreign investor interest in Asian emerging markets and encouraging macroeconomic fundamentals of the country have pushed the Philippine stock market to an 11-month high while spreads of Philippine debt paper have gone down significantly since the start of this year.

Earlier this month, JG Summit said an offshore subsidiary would issue $150 million worth of 5-year fixed-rate notes and that the holding company itself was looking to guarantee the notes.

Sebastian had earlier said that proceeds from the $150-million offer would be used to settle maturing debt later in the year.

In yesterday's interview, he expressed confidence that the company could put to good use the additional $150 million raised from the larger bond offer.

"We don't know yet (what to do with additional cash). The most obvious is we can pay down some more debt," Sebastian said.

JG Summit's maturing debts include $80 million later this year and $70 million early next year.

"With this ($300-million bond offer), we're covered for all maturities up to next year," Sebastian noted.

He ruled out any additional investments in JG Summit's telecommunications arm, Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc., saying that funding for the latter's mobile expansion had long been programmed.

Aside from telecommunications, JG Summit Holdings has interests in property, food, aviation, textiles and financial services. *With a report from Reuters*

RP bonds remain attractive despite Fitch downgrade

HONG KONG—Philippine sovereign dollar bond spreads have tightened sharply in the past month and analysts said the rally still has legs despite a downgrade of Manila's long-term foreign currency ratings.

The spreads widened by 10 to 14 basis points yesterday after Fitch Ratings cut the Philippines' long-term foreign currency rating to "BB" from "BB-plus."

Dealers and analysts said it was a knee-jerk reaction and that investors would continue to chase the bonds for yields.

"The Fitch move was expected. The bonds have (recently) tightened deservingly. If you compare it with Latin America, say Brazil, the Philippines is just catching up," said Patrick Chia, bond fund manager at Credit Agricole Asset Management.

The Philippines has delivered returns of 3.9 percent to investors so far this month, against a 2.4-percent rise for the benchmark JP Morgan Emerging Market Bond Index Plus (EMBI+).

But on a year-to-date basis, the Philippines still lags the broader index, with a 16-percent gain compared with 22.34 percent for the EMBI+.

Spreads on Philippine bonds narrowed dramatically last week after the government said it would wait at least until the third quarter to tap the global market, or even scrap all foreign borrowing plans this year, due to improved revenue collections.

The Philippine sub-index in the benchmark JPMorgan Asia Credit Index (JACI) narrowed 62 basis points last week.

"For a lot of this move, it is not just the individual Philippine story. It is really a broader emerging market and search-for-risk story," said Tokyo-based Kevin Chen, sovereign analyst at Lehman Brothers. "There is growing risk appetite throughout the system."

Easy liquidity and a scramble for yields among investors have sparked a rally in emerging debt since the end of the Iraq war.

"Barring a reversal of market sentiment and barring unexpected bad news, I think that spreads will be reasonably supported in this environment," Chen said.

Fund managers said higher yields on Philippine bonds made them more attractive than other Asian debt.

Philippine dollar bonds currently offer a weighted yield of 6.6 percent against the regional average of 4.4 percent, according to JPMorgan Asia Credit Index.

"Philippine credits have a higher risk premium. They have better potential for spread tightening," said Hong Kong-based Sean Chang, senior fund manager at Invesco.

"We are in favor of Philippine bonds. We feel that they should perform better relative to other Asian sovereign credits this year."

Chang said Philippine bonds would get a further boost if Manila follows an expected US rate cut. *Reuters*

Treasury raises ₱16.4B from sale of retail bonds

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BUREAU of Treasury yesterday raised P16.41 billion from the offering of three- and five-year retail treasury bonds (RTBs), higher than the P10 billion originally expected.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza yesterday said the Treasury accepted more subscription to compensate for the cancellation of the four-year treasury bond offering intended for next week.

The three-year RTBs carried a coupon rate of 9.5 percent while the five-year tenor carried 10.375 percent.

It was the second time that the Treasury conducted an offering of the RTBs, which allowed small investors to buy government securities at a denomination of only P5,000.

The Treasury accepted P7.3 billion for the three-year tenor out of P7.45 billion in tenders, while P9.1 billion was taken out of P9.25 billion worth of tenders for the five-year bonds.

The underwriters for the RTBs were state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines while HSBC Philippines was the lead manager for the issue.

With the favorable response to the offering, Edeza said the government might undertake the RTB auction on a regular annual basis.

Proceeds from the offering will be used to support the government's budget, which is expected to incur a shortfall of P202 billion this year.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 12, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.15	4.2	4.15	4.2	10,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	15.75	16.25	15.75	16.25	214,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44.5	46.5	44.5	46.5	1,569,100
China Banking Corp.	710	710	710	710	400
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32	33	32	33	744,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30	30	29	30	846,700
Philippine National Bank	23	23.5	23	23	761,600
Phil. Savings Bank	28	28	28	28	11,000
Security Bank Corp.	11.75	12	11.75	12	322,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.5	18.75	18.5	18.75	48,700
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	817,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	1,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1520	1535	1520	1535	1,920
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1115	1115	1110	1110	1,120
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16	16.5	16	16.25	30,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.73	0.77	0.72	0.75	15,690,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	620	620	615	620	37,200
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.042	0.042	5,300,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.022	0.022	0.02	0.02	9,100,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	150,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.37	0.38	0.36	0.37	6,870,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	495	495	490	492.5	128,990
Ivantage Corp.	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.45	2,070,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	51,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	7.7	8.2	7.7	8.2	1,280,000
Manila Electric Co. B	11.75	12.75	11.75	12.75	3,470,500
Petron Corp.	1.84	1.92	1.84	1.86	11,286,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.58	1.6	1,617,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.7	1,876,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.38	420,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	1,360,000
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	30,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	1,640,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29	29	29	17,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	406,500
RFM Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	130,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	55	54	54.5	163,700
San Miguel Corp. B	64	64	62.5	64	259,900
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	20,000
Ayala Corp.	4.7	4.95	4.7	4.9	20,355,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.3	2.34	2.3	2.32	211,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	600
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.026	2,800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.6	0.63	0.6	0.63	25,820,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	10,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.64	1.7	1.64	1.7	70,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.43	0.47	0.43	0.45	33,880,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	100,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	3,200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.245	0.25	0.24	0.24	1,860,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.12	1.2	1.12	1.2	368,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	9.2	10	9.2	9.8	4,479,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.095	0.1	0.095	0.1	1,000,000
Ionics Inc.	0.72	0.8	0.72	0.75	1,450,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.52	1.54	1.5	1.54	1,443,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	20,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.74	0.76	0.74	0.75	2,700,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.28	0.31	0.28	0.31	140,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.205	0.21	0.2	0.205	5,260,000
Music Corp.	0.33	0.36	0.33	0.36	5,850,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	2	2	2	2	2,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	600,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.25	210,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	15,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.65	0.67	0.53	0.53	190,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.66	1.7	1.66	1.7	29,000
Pryce Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	50,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	15,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	6,500,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	100,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	40,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	150,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.38	0.42	0.38	0.39	800,000
Philippine Racing Club	4	4	4	4	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	16	17	16	16.5	649,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	3,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.002	0.0024	0.002	0.0024	7,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5	5	5	5	405,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.7	9,929,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	500,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.135	0.15	0.135	0.15	1,830,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.195	0.205	0.195	0.195	9,020,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	50,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.95	1	0.95	0.97	31,130,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.055	0.0775	0.055	0.06	6,700,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.165	540,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	70,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5	26,207,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	10,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.004	0.0038	0.004	56,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	300,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0026	0.0028	0.0026	0.0028	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	4,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
Pacifica	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	2,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.022	0.024	0.022	0.024	2,000,000

DISCLOSURES

SWIFT Foods Inc. said it was not aware of any reason for the decrease in its share price from P0.60 to P0.36.

* * *

CHARLES Foo Chee Lee, Ton Ko Lin, Henry Sy Sr., Cesar Tapia (independent director), Hoe Eng Hock, Charles Yap Giok Twee, Ishmael Limkakeng Jr., Mayo Jose Ongsiaco and Wong Ngiam Jih were elected directors of Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.

* * *

THE FOLLOWING were elected officers of Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc.: Teo Soon Hoe, chairman; Toh Ko Lin, president; Chee Fook Meng, treasurer and VP administration; Ma. Melva Valdez, corporate secretary and Lory Anne Manuel-Muchlin, assistant corporate secretary.

* * *

INTERPHIL Laboratories Inc. elected the following officers: Rocardo Romulo, chairman; Jose Juliano, vice chairman; Francisco Billano, president and general manager; Kasigod Jamias, treasurer and Ana Peralta, corporate secretary.

* * *

RFM Corp. bought 100,000 RFM shares at P0.695 per share on June 10.

Compiled by Armin Adina, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

June 12, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.851064	1.000000	53.518000
Japan	Yen	0.007230	0.008495	0.454600
United Kingdom	Pound	1.418894	1.667200	89.225200
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109132	0.128230	6.862600
Switzerland	Franc	0.650213	0.764000	40.887800
Canada	Dollar	0.629951	0.740192	39.613600
Singapore	Dollar	0.491008	0.576934	30.876400
Australia	Dollar	0.563992	0.662691	35.465900
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.269443	2.666596	142.710900
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.226938	0.266652	14.270700
Brunei	Dollar	0.489596	0.575275	30.787600
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000122	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.020385	0.023952	1.281900
UAE	Dirham	0.231727	0.272279	14.571800
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.175000	62.883700
Argentina	Peso	0.302870	0.355872	19.045600
Brazil	REAL	0.296125	0.347947	18.621400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134620	0.158178	8.465400
India	Rupee	0.018260	0.021455	1.148200
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.223994	0.263193	14.085600
Mexico	New Peso	0.080586	0.094688	5.067500
New Zealand	Dollar	0.491235	0.577201	30.890600
Norway	Kroner	0.121706	0.143004	7.653300
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014750	0.017331	0.927500
South Africa	Rand	0.107356	0.126143	6.750900
Korea	Won	0.000712	0.000837	0.044800
Sweden	Kroner	0.109818	0.129036	6.905700
Syria	Pound	0.020264	0.023810	1.274300
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024597	0.028902	1.546800
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000534	0.000627	0.033600

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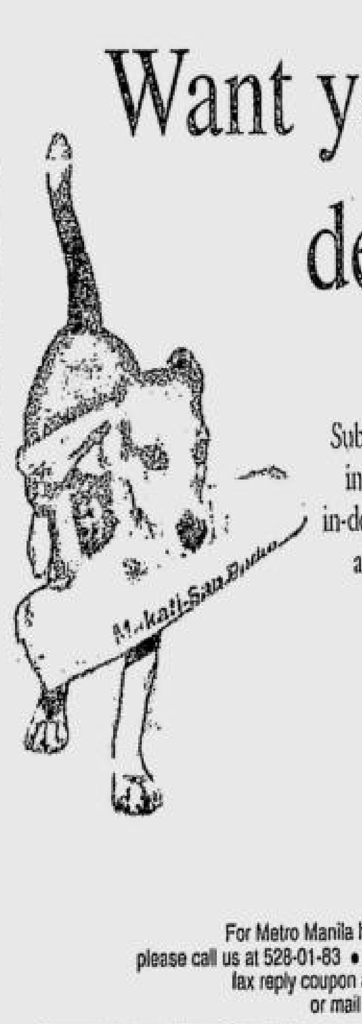

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Cuisia's victory

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

FORMER Central Bank Gov. Jose Cuisia may now view his old colleagues at the now Bangko Sentral in a more positive light.

Under increasing media scrutiny and a public blast from the ex-gov, the Bangko Sentral has now asked a problematic thrift bank why a deadbeat who failed to pay billions of loans from the same bank has instead been rewarded with a bank directorship.

According to the grapevine, the Bangko Sentral has been rather slow—painstaking is the adjective they would rather hear—in reacting to these certainly unsafe and unsound banking practices, given the legal bind that a landmark Supreme Court decision about the problematic thrift bank had tied the central bankers in.

Unknown to the public, Gov. Rafael Buenaventura has created a tight "internal working group" to coordinate all legal and supervisory moves against the problematic thrift bank, especially in the light of their discovery that their very own consultant, the Roco Kapunan law firm, had been secretly retained by a sister company of the thrift bank and, worse, came up with a recommendation against the Bangko Sentral.

Imagine, ex-Sen. Raul Roco prides himself as the father of the New Central Bank Act and corporate transparency/governance and yet, behind the back of his principal, his law firm comes up with a recommendation that, yes, the new Bangko Sentral may be dunned for billions in damages for the alleged sins of its predecessor.

Going back to the problematic bank, Cuisia, who now heads the Philam savings and insurance group, went as far as branding as a "scam" the repayment scheme of the multibillion-peso lifeline that the old central bank had thrown to support the problematic thrift bank.

Cuisia's latest blast was featured in last week's Newsbreak magazine that had for its cover story Bishop Teodoro Bacani.

Like the Newsbreak issue that had a billionaire polo player on its cover, last week's issue was another bestseller, but unlike the previous bestseller, the avid buyers this time were not the personnel of the problematic thrift bank, who get to know the extent of their bank's problem only through the media, but the Church faithful.

Now Newsbreak is seriously considering another print run of the Bacani issue. But that, as they say, is another story.

Courtroom celebration

SEN. Panfilo Lacson was supposed to have been the guest of honor in yesterday's Independence Day celebrations in Guam, but instead had to beg off because of an urgent California commitment.

According to the Guam Pacific Daily News, Lacson had to answer a summons from the Supreme Court of Alameda County, apparently over the estafa complaint filed by a Filipina-American handcuff supplier that did business with Lacson when he was still Erap police chief.

In lieu of Lacson, the Guam Filipino community invited Sen. Robert Jaworski and ex-Sen. Rene Saguisag to visit the US commonwealth island and give them political tidbits and forecast about the mother country.

HRM 101

OUR Favorite Publisher has lately been publicly complaining about the piped-in music in Glorietta, berating the Ayalas for the decibel level that is hard on geriatrics and senior citizens.

If the Glorietta security reviews their tape, especially on late June 5 afternoon, they would indeed see our Favorite Publisher in Italianni's with his chitchat bunch. But wait, the spy tape shows more.

Favorite Publisher then walks up to two sweet young things—young enough to be mistaken for Montessori students—and proceeds to coo and flirt with them in front of the embarrassed public for what seemed like an eternity!

Apparently, Favorite Publisher knows the two luscious mestizas well enough, having treated them, according to their colleagues, to good restaurants and other finer things in life to help the two colegialas, both hotel and restaurant management majors, get some real-life traction.

The private lessons are all conducted after

COCKTALES/ B4

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ICC approves irrigation projects worth ₱4.38B

By Michelle V. Remo

THE CABINET-LEVEL Investment Coordination Committee has approved the implementation of P4.38 billion worth of infrastructure and irrigation projects that were expected to spur economic growth in the countryside.

The biggest of these projects is the P2.9-billion Countrywide Bridge Project, which calls for the construction of 120 double-lane bridges and 80 single-lane bridges over the next three years.

Another major project is the P1.028-billion Procurement of Pumps, Drilling Rigs and Related Equipment Project.

The project would improve water supply to an estimated 18,000 hectares of land.

The project cost includes a training component for about 600 irrigators associations on the proper operation and maintenance of the irrigation equipment.

The last approved project was the irrigation component of the Cagayan Integrated Agricultural Development Project (CIADP).

The project intends to increase crop production in the area from the current average yield of 2.65 metric tons per hectare to at least 3.98 metric tons.

The improved production was estimated to raise farmers' income in the area from P22,725 to at least P26,775 each.

The ICC said the projects were approved following the submission of budget requirements by the National Irrigation Administration, endorsement by the Regional Development Council's and the issuance of water permits and environmental compliance certificates.

The inter-agency ICC is the government body tasked to screen major infrastructure projects that could qualify for official development assistance from bilateral and multilateral lenders.

Major departments are represented in the ICC, which is chaired by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Venture capital firm to offer shares in July

By Elena R. Torrijos

VENTURE capital broker Cashrounds Inc. has joined the short list of companies that have decided to list their shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange despite listless trading.

The PSE yesterday approved Cashround's IPO application and the initial public offering has been set for July 2-8.

Its shares would be listed on the PSE's small and medium enterprise board on July 23.

Cashround would list 28 million common shares of which eight million would be offered to the public at P1.00 per share.

Cashrounds said almost half of the estimated P6.38 million in net proceeds of or P3.657 million would be used for permanent working capital.

About P1.7 million would be used to bankroll marketing and promotion expenses and P1 million for software and hardware upgrade.

Cashrounds operates an online private placement matchmaking service.

Using its electronic infrastructure, Cashrounds collects, aggregates, qualifies and presents investment proposals to professional venture capitalists and various investors in the Asia-Pacific region for possible private equity transactions.

Cashrounds is only the second company to list its shares on the IPO following Makati Finance Corp. which made its debut early this year.

Makati is a unit of Amalgamated Investment Corp. It was the 237th firm to enter the PSE's roster of listed companies and the 2nd to list on the SME board.

Daewoo eyes $20-M bus assembly plant

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SOUTH Korea's Daewoo Engineering and Construction Co. is looking at building a $20-million (about P1 billion) assembly plant for buses that would run on compressed natural gas (CNG), the Department of Energy said yesterday.

Energy Undersecretary JV Emmanuel de Dios said in a briefing that the project would be a big boost to the government's CNG public transport program, which aims to have up to 100 CNG buses operating within the year.

"Daewoo already has a manufacturing facility for diesel buses in the country, but they promised (President Macapagal-Arroyo when she met with company officials in Seoul early this month) to study putting up the CNG bus assembly plant in one of our export processing zones," De Dios said.

De Dios also said that the Development Bank of the Philippines has approved an P87-million loan facility for transport companies that are keen on operating CNG-run buses.

"That same day, the first loan agreement was signed with the RRCG Transport System Co., which is looking at sourcing 20 CNG bus units from Daewoo," the official added.

He said these developments showed that efforts to promote CNG as fuel for public transport had finally hit pay dirt.

The Department of Transportation and Communication had earlier committed to give priority to operators of CNG buses in the granting of franchises.

"Aside from that, we are in talks with the Malampaya consortium for it to build a high pressure compression facility in its processing plant in Tabangao, Batangas," De Dios said.

The official said the government was working at selling CNG at P4 below the price of diesel per liter for the first five years to propagate its use.

Aussie firms to revise mining plan

By Christine A. Gaylican

CLIMAX Mining and Arimco Mining Company of Australia are set to revise their development plan for the Didipio gold mine in Northern Luzon to comply with local environmental standards.

The development of the mine in the Mamparang mountain range in the Mt. Province was stalled because of opposition from the residents who claimed that the area was a watershed, thus, was off limits to mining activities.

Climax and Arimco, which would jointly develop the mine, however, informed the Mines and Geosciences Bureau that they are bent on resuming mining operations in the area.

"They (Climax-Arimco) have signified their intention to pursue a new plan in order to revive their mining project," Mining Tenements division chief Leo Jasareno told the INQUIRER.

Non-government organizations earlier filed a petition before the Supreme Court to cancel the Australian firms' Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) with the government.

An FTAA allows a foreign company to have an equity stake of up to 100 percent in a mining project, although its investments must be between $25 million and $100 million.

Cocktales

From page B3

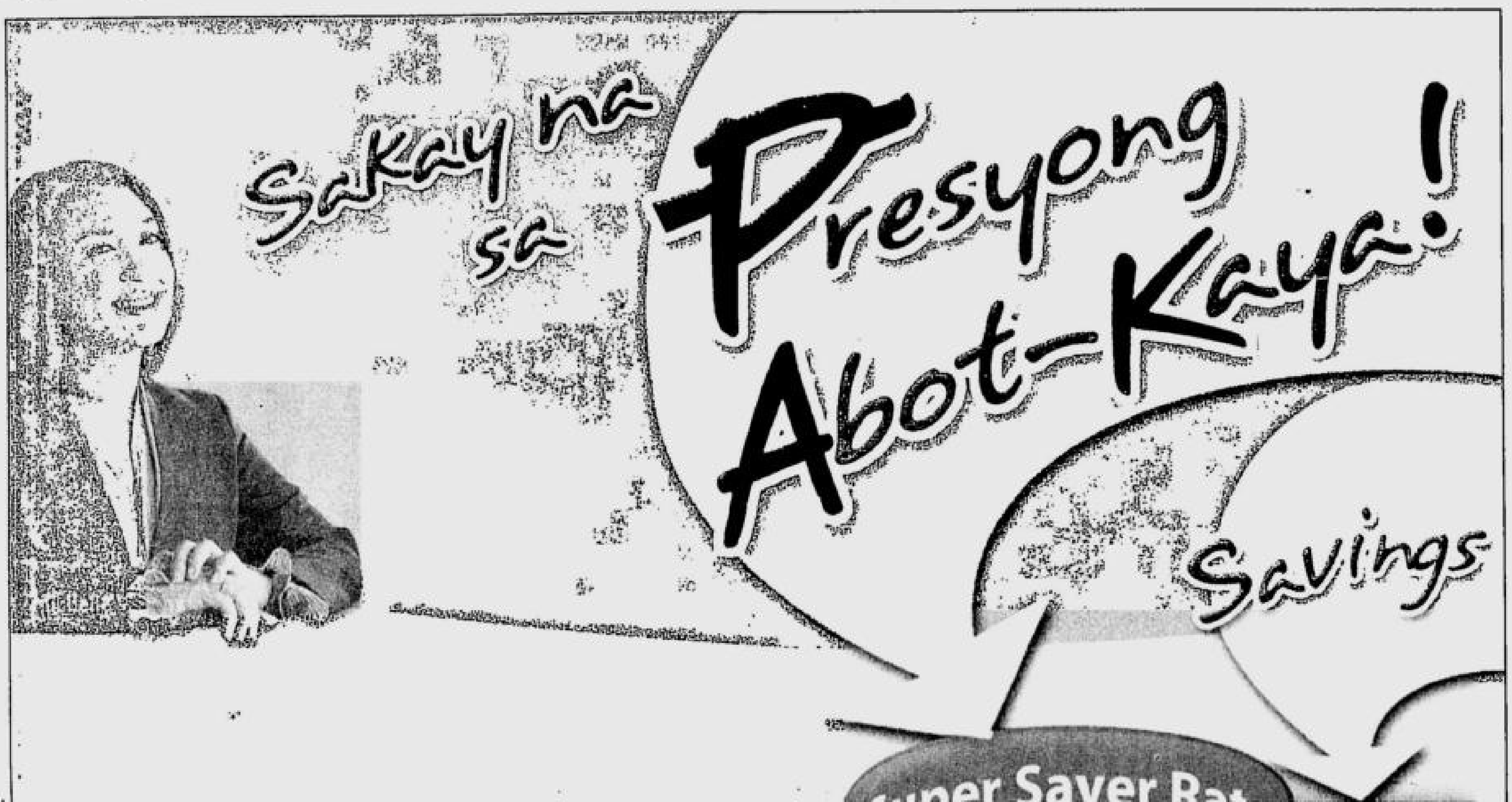
office and school hours, of course.

Heard through the grapevine

PRESIDENTIAL Adviser Roberto Romulo is under concerted newspaper and PR attack from an industry player trying to muscle its way into the Iraq reconstruction business.

The collateral PR attack, on the other hand, is for yet another dollar-denominated lobbying retainer in Washington DC.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)



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	Business Class/Tourist Class	P 2,370	P 1,800	P 570
Cebu	Mega Value/SuperValue	P 1,610	P 1,200	P 410
	Business Class/Tourist Class	P 1,860	P 1,500	P 360
Dumaguit	Mega Value/SuperValue	P 1,160	P 900	P 260
	Tourist Class	P 1,300	P 1,100	P 200
Iloilo	Mega Value/SuperValue	P 1,690	P 1,100	P 590
	Business Class/Tourist Class	P 1,820	P 1,300	P 520
Puerto Princesa	Mega Value/SuperValue	P 1,560	P 1,200	P 360
	Business Class/Tourist Class	P 1,850	P 1,500	P 350
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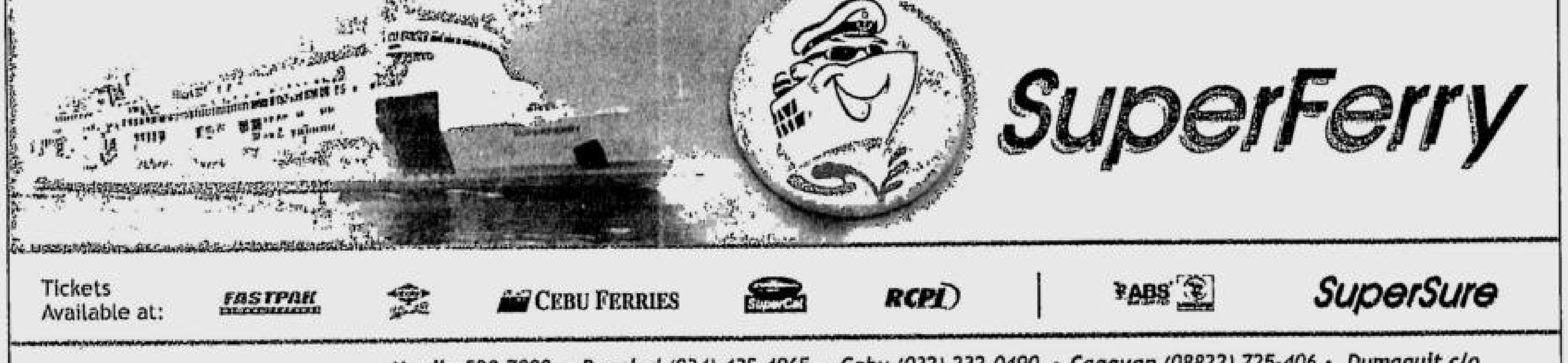

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Communicate or perish

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

LAST Dec. 30, President Macapagal-Arroyo, seeing the sad state of our country, said: "Reform or perish." As we work for this reform, we must also communicate. For lack of communication often results in faulty judgments, wrong decisions, and feelings of disappointment, anger and betrayal.

The Cordillera farmers

Such an unfortunate situation happened between the government and the Cordillera, farmer-leaders. Dionisio Martes, Alfredo Alingdeo, Edison Simeon and Jonathan Tersero were so angry that they planned to picket government offices to protest what they perceived to be a betrayal. This is their story:

- They described a very successful experience where, with Bureau of Customs (BOC) personnel, they identified and monitored smuggling sources and apprehensions. As a result, the smuggling rate for fresh and frozen agricultural products dropped from 40 percent to 16 percent after six weeks and 0.4 per cent after three months.
- Because of this, they enthusiastically cooperated with the government in bringing their vegetables directly from La Trinidad to Metro Manila. This would eliminate one to three layers of middlemen and eventually result in higher prices for farmers and lower prices.
- Last April 7, amid much publicity and fanfare, the government provided the farmers an accessible *bagsakan* or sales outlet at the Quezon City Memorial Circle. The farmers understood that they would also get access to subsidized refrigerated vans and storage facilities.
- From April 4 to 30, the farmers received the van subsidy but no refrigerated facilities. Nevertheless, these farmers still made money, though less than the profits they would have made had they continued their current practice of selling to traders in La Trinidad. This is because they sold only 80 percent of the delivered vegetables, with the 20 percent unsold resulting in wastage because of no refrigeration. Nevertheless the farmers were confident this would improve over time. This was not to happen.
- On May 1, the *bagsakan* was moved to a much less accessible location in the Circle. The percentage of vegetables sold dropped from 80 percent to 30 percent, resulting in huge losses for the farmers.

Need for communication

- The subsidized refrigerated vans that serviced the prior month stopped coming. Instead, two commercial vans were offered at P260,000 rental each per month. With the inaccessible selling site and the lack of economies of scale, this arrangement was not financially feasible.
- But what angered the farmers most was an expected May 20 noon pick-up for their vegetables by a refrigerated van. When no van came, the farmers tried to find out what was happening from certain government officials. Finally at 6 p.m., they located one of the van drivers. He told them that the van service had been canceled that morning. The farmers said they should have at least been informed earlier, because now they would lose very much from the unsold vegetables.

In a talk with three directors of the Department of Agriculture (DA) who were involved with this project, all agreed that good communication could have averted these problems.

- There was no written document that specified the obligations of both parties. Had this been done, the farmers would not even have started the project because of the unexpected changes: the new site, cost of the refrigerated vans and the absence of refrigeration facilities.
- A feasibility and return-on-investment analysis done and agreed upon by both parties would have resulted in the determination that this project could not have been sustainable beyond the first month. Thus, the farmers would not have felt exploited when their statements were given and pictures taken for political purposes during the project launching.
- Finally, the farmers' letter to the DA requesting a response to their concerns, dated April 28 and officially received on April 30, was never answered. It is now 44 days since the letter was received, well beyond the 15 working-day limit mandated by law for a government response.

Roberto Versola of Philippine Greens said communication was necessary for a true reform. After a two-month communication impasse on Bt Corn, his farmer group had asked for a meeting with a top DA official on Feb. 7. Subsequent rallies held on March 19, March 26 and April 2 still yielded no answer. On April 22, the exasperated farmers started a hunger strike. Versola said it was only on the seventh day of this strike that their request for a meeting was finally granted.

Conclusion

Many small farmers say that because they are poor, they are ignored by the government. "We are treated like dirt, maybe because we are associated with the soil. But it is the soil we till that produces the food these officials eat," said Martes, who has since resigned from the *bagsakan* project. The other leaders are hoping that better communication will improve the chances for reform, as proven by their fulfilling BOC experience which received the DA's support.

They recommend that all future projects with small farmers should include: a written signed document specifying the obligations of both parties and a feasibility and ROI analysis of the project. These will ensure sustainability and transparency, as well as prevent the abuse of taxpayers' money to further political ends which often harm the small farmers.

As we work jointly for reform, let us also communicate. Or else we might perish.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative, former Undersecretary of the DA and the DTI and chair/Secretary, Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635)

Further oil price cuts seen

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL oil companies owe consumers another round of price cuts with the Dubai crude prices seen to remain stable during the rest of the year, according to the Department of Energy.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said in a briefing that the oil firms still "owe consumers a little" and we could expect a reduction in the next few weeks.

The oil companies had slashed their prices six times in the last three months since the war in Iraq started in mid-March.

However, Petron's public affairs manager Virginia Ruivivar said in a separate interview that the country's biggest oil firm had no such plans.

"We have not recovered the cost of building our inventories during the Iraq war and now we are seeing Dubai prices going up again," Ruivivar said.

She said crude prices had gone up by $1 per barrel in the last month.

Industry data show that Dubai crude averaged $24.35 per barrel in May while this was pegged at $24.39 per barrel in the first 10 days of June.

Fernando Martinez, chair of Eastern Petroleum Corp., said he could not see a possible price reduction as the downtrend in crude prices due to the success of the United States-led war against Iraq had been passed on fully to consumers.

In the meantime, the energy chief said the DOE had revised its projections on average crude prices for the entire 2003 to $25.25 per barrel from the previous $26.04.

The official said that initial world oil market forecasts show that the impact of the SARS scare on Asian oil demand would be a reduction of about 70,000 barrels per day in the second quarter.

FCIE firm posts ₱1B in exports

HOCHENG Philippines Corp. (HPC), manufacturer and distributor of HCG bathroom fixtures, remains the leading export producer of sanitary wares in the country for five straight years, delivering some 1.5 million fixtures to more than 20 countries around the world from its state-of-the-art production facility in Cavite.

Total exports of HPC amounted to P1.1 billion as of end-2002.

"HPC produces world-class products in its First Cavite Industrial Estate factory where Filipino workmanship tandems perfectly with state-of-the-art European technology also employed in HCG manufacturing' facilities around the world," said HPC vice president Steve Chien.

HCG bathroom fixtures to the United States, Southeast Asia, the Middle East and European markets.

He disclosed that the company's export sales improved by an average of 24 percent yearly.

Domestic sales grew by 77 percent to P950 million as of the end-March 2003.

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Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.01600	1.00000

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commision

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1084 Series of 2003

METRO PACIFIC CORPORATION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of Metro Pacific Corporation (the "Company") will be held on Friday, 20 June 2003, 10:00 a.m. at the Mahogany Room, (previously set at the Fontaine Room) 4th floor of the Mandarin Oriental Manila, Makati Avenue, Makati City, for the following purposes:

1. To consider and approve the President's Report and the Annual Report for the year 2002.
2. To ratify all acts of the Board of Directors and Management for the year 2002.
3. To consider and adopt the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2002 contained in the Annual Report.
4. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 June 2002.
5. To elect the Directors of the Company for the ensuing year.
6. To consider and act upon the appointment of independent auditors.
7. To consider and act upon the amendment of Article Sixth of the Amended Articles of Incorporation of the Company, to reduce the number of directors from 15 to 11.
8. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting and at any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on 15 May 2003 as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Stockholders' Meeting

By order of the Board

ANTONIO A. PICAZO
Corporate Secretary

IMPROVED BIR COLLECTIONS

Budget gap in May seen way below ₱20-B ceiling

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE IMPROVED revenue collections by the Bureau of Internal Revenue allowed the national government to contain its budget shortfall for the month of May to P13.4 billion, or way below the programmed ceiling of P20.5 billion, preliminary government figures showed.

This would bring the government's five-month budget gap to about P79 billion, or 39 percent of the P202-billion deficit ceiling for the full year.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said that based on the emerging figures, the government's revenues were ahead of target by P3.5 billion. He said revenues hit P53.4 billion compared to the targeted P49.9 billion while expenditures were kept at P66.8 billion against the ceiling of P70.4 billion.

However, he said this figure might still change subject to some "reconciliation" and "revision."

"It (May deficit level) puts us on track to the attainment of the full-year targets," Camacho said. "So we (economic managers) also agreed that there would be no changes in the macroeconomic targets."

"Indications are that May will be the second month in a row that the deficit will be better than expected," Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin told reporters after the Cabinet-level Development Budget Coordination Committee meeting yesterday morning.

Boncodin said that aside from surpassing its revenue targets for the month, the government likewise kept the lid on its expenditures.

The P13-billion budget deficit estimated for May was also much better than the P24.58 billion shortfall incurred during the same month last year.

From January to April this year, the government's budget deficit stood at P65.46 billion.

During the DBCC meeting, government officials attributed the country's sound fiscal position to the improved performance of the BIR, which accounts for about 70 percent of total revenues.

For May, the BIR reported a revenue collection of P36.36 billion, bringing its five-month collections to P176.67 billion or 10.42 percent better than the year-ago level. This represented a 17.7-percent growth in BIR collections, sustaining the 18.6 percent growth posted in April.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno said collections by the large taxpayers unit of the agency in May improved over last year's level by more than P1.8 billion or 9.5 percent, seen as a "hefty" margin as this unit accounts for more than half of the bureau's total collections.

For the five-month period, the BIR surpassed its own performance last year by P5.4 billion or about 6 percent.

The performance of the BIR's 19 regional offices also expanded by 30.5 percent in May from a year ago. Parayno also said the 10.4 percent growth in the BIR's revenue collection for the five month period was 2.9 percentage points more than the minimum needed to reach the agency's yearend target,

In order to meet the BIR's revenue collection target of P424 billion this year, its collections need to grow by at least 7.5 percent monthly.

The burgeoning budget deficit has been a major drag on the economy.

DTI projecting 20% rise in tuna exports

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S tuna exports are expected to increase by 20 percent after the European Union lowered the tariffs on canned tuna coming from the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia, according to Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II.

Roxas said it was the World Trade Organization's ruling on the issue that prompted the EU to lower the tariff rates on canned tuna. It was, he said, the first time the country obtained a favorable ruling from the world trade body after it had filed various complaints concerning market access issues.

He added that the lower tariff rates were also expected to result in 2,500 additional jobs in the local tuna industry.

"This latest development augurs well for our tuna industry because now it can fortify its competitive advantage and boost sales in the international market," Roxas said.

The Tuna Canners Association of the Philippines (TCAP), an eight-member association of tuna canneries, lauded the country's victory in its case against the EU.

In a letter to Roxas, TCAP president Paul Tan Candelaria said the government's success in getting lower tariffs for canned tuna would be a significant help to spur the growth of the industry. "This new tariff quota is a shot in the arm and it now lays out new challenges for our industry to think in global terms, inspiring us to sharpen our competitive skills and make a mark for Philippine Tuna in the world market," he said.

The EU will be imposing a 12-percent tariff on the country's canned tuna exports. Prior to the WTO ruling, the EU had been slapping a 24-percent tariff on Philippine tuna, while allowing the duty-free entry of canned tuna from African, Carribean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

Roxas said the new quota set by the EU for imported tuna would be increased by at least 3 percent starting 2004.

The country's major markets for tuna are the United States, Singapore, the EU, Japan and Canada.

The new EU tariff quota allows the entry of 25,000 metric tons of canned tuna every year for a five-year period from the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia.

Philippine tuna exports consist of fresh, chilled, frozen, dried smoked and canned tuna.

Man of vision expands business in Asia

By Dianne M. Villafuerte

GONE are the days when one would have to wait for three days—at the very least—for a pair of eyeglasses to be finished. Now it takes only an hour to get one's prescription glasses, thanks to Vision Express.

The optical store chain started out as a joint venture between a Filipino businessman and a giant optical shop chain in Europe.

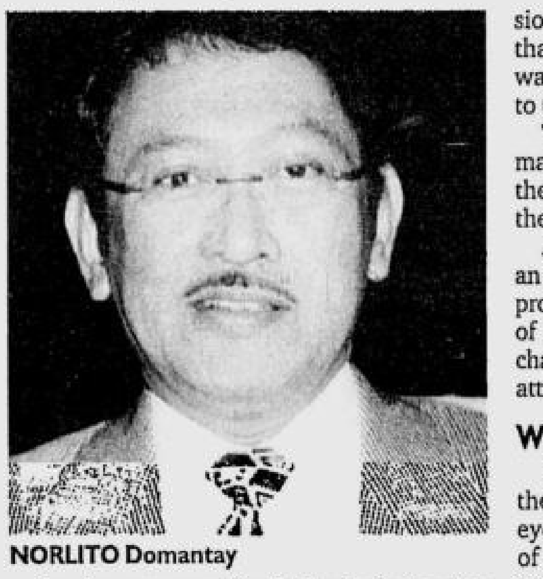
Seeing the potential of Asia's booming economy back in 1994, the success of Vision Express UK all over Europe and the appeal of its one-hour service on the market, Norlito Domantay contacted good friend and Vision Express UK founder, Dean Butler, and suggested a partnership.

SUCCESS STORY

Domantay initially thought of bringing the optical shop to China, where the market was large and more encouraging, but then he realized that if he was bringing Vision Express to Asia, he should set up his first camp in the Philippines. Besides, it was about time he came back home after staying in the United States for 10 years.

Thus, Vision Express Holdings Pte. Ltd. was put up in 1994 and in the same year, the first Vision Express optical shop in Asia was established in the Philippines.

VISION Express Megamall



NORLITO Domantay

Proudly Filipino

In 1998, after four years in operation as a joint venture, Lito decided to buy out his partner, Vision Express UK, making the company wholly Filipino-owned. This was to give Vision Express Holdings the flexibility to adapt to the peculiar needs of the Asian markets it was servicing. Vision Express UK allowed Domantay to keep the company name.

Today, Vision Express Holdings Pte. Ltd., with headquarters in Singapore, has 12 stores in the the Philippines—in SM Megamall (the first shop set up by the company in Asia), Glorietta 3, SM North, Robinsons Galleria, Ermita, Robinsons Sta. Rosa and Alabang Town Center; one in Guam and two in Singapore.

Come August, there will be another one, this time in Brunei. And by next year, in Malaysia.

"The greatest challenge is the competition," Domantay, who is Vision Express Holdings' president and chief executive officer, said. "We had something new to offer, which is glasses in one hour." And that made the company and its innovation click.

Tough days

Another major challenge that Vision Express Holdings had to face was the move of some members of Congress to shut down the company down through a measure proposed by the Samahan ng Optometrists ng Pilipinas.

"They (congressmen) tried to pass a law here in 1995 prohibiting corporations from setting up optical stores. *Kailangan daw* individual optometrists should own the shops," he said.

"They tried to pass that (law) under the guise of an act upgrading the level of education for optometrists. That almost passed. Luckily, we were able to stop it at the Senate," he said.

Domantay stressed the point that even big medical centers were owned and managed by doctors alone. He said he simply wanted to put up an optical store that provides fast and efficient service without having to compromise quality.

"It's not as if I will practice there (at Vision Express)," he rationalizes. "That's why it is the store's optometrists who see the patients. It's between the optometrist and the patient. We don't dictate. The corporation does not examine eyes. That was the biggest challenge. That (stopping the passage of the proposed legislation) took us six months."

Establishing foothold

"Of course when you're also new it's very hard to get a space in commercial centers," he said. The store's space in Megamall was actually allotted for a restaurant. "We're at the restaurant row, across us is a furniture store."

The mall was, in fact, hesitant to give Vision Express the space. It was a blessing then that Domantay knew Henry Sy. Vision Express was finally awarded the space after appealing to the SM big boss.

Two days after Vision Express opened, Domantay said, the taipan himself came down to the shop to stress the strategic importance of the optical shop in that mall.

And what seemed like an unlikely space for an optical store in Megamall turned out to be a profitable one. Since the store is in the vicinity of the more upscale restaurants, people who chance upon the store end up being customers attracted by Vision Express' one-hour service.

Winning customers

Prospective clients go to the store, make their purchases and, while waiting for their eyeglasses to be finished in an hour, make use of valuable time eating at one of the adjacent restaurants or malling.

"Those were the initial challenges. There's always a challenge anywhere in the world," he said narrating his experience in Guam where his business had to face strong competition posed by the 25 other optical shops operating in the area.

Today, Vision Express boasts of being the leading optical shop in that market, which was won by its one-hour service.

And if they had a hard time getting their very first store space before, today it's the mall operators themselves who give priority to Vision Express.

One-stop shops

Aside from having their laboratories right inside their shops, Vision Express also boasts of its competitive prices and its wide selection of frames. Over a thousand types of frames are carried by every store, an accommodating and friendly staff and an extensive price range.

Vision Express does not charge extra for alterations, a sure-fire way of winning a first-time client's loyalty.

Cut in BSP lending, borrowing rates seen

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas may implement a token reduction in its overnight policy rates to follow the expected monetary easing by the US Federal Reserve.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters the central bank could lower its overnight borrowing and lending rates without causing an increase in the liquidity in the system, as additional money supply was already freed up with the restoration of the tiering scheme on its overnight borrowings.

The ECB (European Central Bank) cut its rates by 50 basis pints during its meeting early this month while the US Fed is expected to reduce its own by the same magnitude later this month.

The policy-making Monetary Board of the BSP, for its part, will meet next meet for its monthly policy rate setting in the first week of July.

"We're now at 7 percent (overnight borrowing rate), we could cut depending on money supply, if there's adequate level of liquidity," Buenaventura said.

During its last monetary policy setting, the BSP maintained its overnight borrowing rate at 7 percent and its overnight lending rate at 9.25 percent. It, however, revived the tiering system.

The restoration of the tiering system makes it less attractive for banks to place funds with the BSP as the published overnight borrowing rate of 7 percent under the overnight reverse repurchase agreement (RRP) window will become applicable only to the first P5 billion parked with the BSP.

In excess of P5 billion, banks will be paid only a 4-percent interest, and any amount in excess of P10 billion will earn only 1 percent.

With the revival of the tiering system, Buenaventura said a reduction in nominal rates would have very little impact on liquidity.

Also, the BSP is considering reducing by one percentage point its reserve requirement on banks if the downtrend in inflation continues in the next few months.

The BSP currently imposes a 17-percent reserve requirement on banks' deposits and deposit substitute liabilities, common trust funds and other fiduciary liabilities. Of the total, 9 percentage represents the statutory reserve (or those required to be placed in the BSP's vaults) while 8 percentage is the liquidity reserve which can be placed in market-yielding instruments purchased from the central bank. *Doris C. Dumlao*

NEC hits inconsistencies in Digitel statements

By Abigail L. Ho

JAPANESE equipment supplier NEC Corp. claimed that the Gokongwei-owned Digital Telecommunications Phil. Inc. had been making "inconsistent" statements about the pending transfer of its mobile phone license to cellular service arm Digitel Mobile Phil. Inc.

In a letter to Philippine Stock Exchange senior vice president Jose Cervantes, NEC's Yoshifumi Matsubara accused Digitel of disclosing one thing to the local bourse and claiming another thing to the National Telecommunications Commission.

Matsubara pointed out that Digitel's board claimed that Digitel Mobile would only be the "marketing arm" for the Gokongweis' cellular business and that it had not received any offers from potential strategic investors.

In its application for the transfer of its provisional authority for cellular, however, Digitel stated that "there is a need for applicant Digitel to spin off the operation and maintenance of its (cellular mobile telephone system) to a fully owned subsidiary, taking into consideration the preference of potential strategic partners to invest only in the wireless sector."

The Japanese firm added that these were not the only inconsistencies in Digitel's statements—to shareholders, to the public and to regulators.

Matsubara further criticized Digitel officials for claiming during its stockholders meeting last month that the results of ongoing arbitration proceedings between NEC and Digitel "will not result in a material adverse impact on the financial statements in the current year" and that "no provision for probable losses is necessary."

Late last year, NEC declared Digitel in default on $236.9 million worth of supplier's credit that was last restructured in 1999.

Japan firms in RP among least affected by SARS scare–Jetro

JAPANESE firms in the Philippines are among the least affected by the spread of the deadly Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus.

This was the result of the survey conducted by Jetro from May 8 to 14 covering Japanese companies operating in East Asia.

The survey showed that 70 percent of Japanese businesses in 12 areas in East Asia have been affected by the SARS scare. The most affected are companies operating in China (86.2 percent), Hong Kong (84.9 percent), Singapore (84.3 percent) and Taiwan (78.8 percent).

The least affected Japanese firms are those operating in Thailand (38 percent), Indonesia (39.3 percent), Korea (46.4 percent), and the Philippines (51.5 percent).

The majority of the respondents said that the most serious effect of SARS on businesses was "the delay in negotiations and the suspension of production due to travel restrictions particularly on engineers."

Other effects cited were suspension of new projects and procurement of parts, cancellation of new contracts, delay in the exportation of manufactured products, and delay in capital investment.

In North China, all firms in the fields of transportation machinery, construction, real estate, physical transport, communications, general commerce, services and miscellaneous non-manufacturing said they have felt the impact of SARS.

For the Philippines, the sectors that were affected by the SARS epidemic were the transportation, communications, commerce, services (66.7 percent), other non-manufacturing businesses (61.1 percent), and electric and electronic machinery (54.9 percent).

Eighty percent of the respondents, however, said they were taking SARS preventive measures, primarily in terms of personal health, including restricting travels and providing SARS masks to employees. Business-related measures include expanding stocks of parts, using alternative manufacturing bases, tapping SARS-free sources of necessary supplies, and diverting exports to SARS-free desitinations.

About a quarter of the respondents reported a decline in production and sales, while 8.5 percent stated they had increased orders and sales of SARS-related products, including pharmaceuticals and medical products. Others experienced improved orders due to shifts in supply sources from China to other locations, such as the Asean region.

If SARS will continue for another two to three months, 42.8 percent of the respondents said there would be a decrease in sales/or production.

FED ASSESSMENT

US economy 'sluggish' in most areas in April, May

WASHINGTON—The Federal Reserve on Wednesday said the end of the Iraq war provided some boost to US business and consumer sentiment in recent weeks, but not enough to lift the economy out of its doldrums.

"Although reports from the 12 Federal Reserve Districts indicated some signs of increased economic activity in April and May, conditions remained sluggish in most districts," the Fed said in its "beige book" report, an anecdotal summary of economic conditions around the country.

"The unwinding of war-related concerns appears to have provided some lift to business and consumer confidence, but most reports suggested that the effect has not been dramatic," the report said. No district said conditions had worsened since the last report in April, it noted.

Tim O'Neill, chief economist with the BMO Financial Group in Toronto, called the report's tone "tentatively positive."

The report also said there were few signs of imminent deflation, a general fall in prices usually accompanied by a severe slump in economic activity.

"Anecdotal reports suggest that price pressures are mixed, with no widespread inflationary or deflationary pressures," the report said—a slight change from April, when the beige book said no "widespread inflationary pressures were mentioned."

The comment in the latest report could deal a blow to some analysts' belief that the Fed's worry about possible deflation, which it has said poses only a "remote" risk to the United States, may be enough in itself to prompt a rate cut.

The US central bank's Federal Open Market Committee is set to mull interest rate policy on June 24-25.

Financial markets have largely been expecting the Fed to cut short-term rates from their 41-year low of 1.25 percent.

Earlier, Fed vice chair Roger Ferguson said the central bank did not want to see inflation gauges move much lower.

"It's fair to say we are in a zone of price stability," he said after a speech in New York.

BMO's O'Neill said it was unclear whether the central bank intended to give any hints about its policy leanings with the wording change. However, he said it did show a heightened, if still relatively low, level of concern at the Fed.

"The Fed has become somewhat more concerned," he said.

The beige book also returned to themes seen in previous versions—unimpressive spending by consumers, weak manufacturing and slack demand for workers.

"Consumer spending remained lackluster overall. Retail sales rebounded as the hostilities in Iraq subsided, but sales remained below the level of a year ago," the report said.

Manufacturing was mixed while reports on the service sector showed "sluggish activity overall." The lowest mortgage rates in decades helped residential construction, but commercial building was still weak.

"Most districts continued to report weakness in labor markets and some downward pressure on wages, although benefit costs continued to increase," the report said.

Wednesday's report was prepared by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, based on information gathered before June 2. *Reuters*

Hard times hit ranks of millionaires

NEW YORK—The number of millionaires around the world grew to 7.3 million last year, but the United States saw for the first time a drop in the number of high-wealth people and their net worth, a survey showed Wednesday.

The survey by Cap Gemini Ernst and Young with brokerage Merrill Lynch concluded that the number of "high-net-worth individuals"—with at least $1 million in assets, excluding real estate—grew by 200,000 last year.

Overall, the assets of these individuals grew 3.6 percent to $27.2 trillion (25.9 trillion euros) last year, the report showed. This occurred even as global stock market wealth declined by 16.9 percent in 2002.

The report said that although global financial markets were clobbered, the wealthy were able to "use knowledge and professional financial assistance to overcome difficulties" and keep their assets intact.

But in North America, wealth among these individuals declined 2.1 percent, or $200 billion, to $7.4 trillion. There also was a 1.9-percent decline in the number of millionaires in North America, down to 2.22 million individuals.

"Their numbers and wealth was undermined by continued declines in US equities markets," said James Gorman, president of Merrill Lynch's Global Private Client group.

"However, the decline in their wealth was substantially less than the 22-percent drop in the value of the Standard and Poor's 500 index over 2002, indicating that high-net-worth investors had strategies in place for wealth preservation."

European millionaires fared better, with their wealth up 4.8 percent, or $400 billion, to $8.8 trillion (8.4 trillion euros) in 2002.

The number of wealthy people increased 3.9 percent, or 100,000 people, to 2.6 million individuals, the survey found. *AFP*

SERVICE crews of fast-food chain McDonald's serve meals to customers. Japan's McDonald's Holdings said on Tuesday that the company will raise the price of hamburgers back to 80 yen in July, from the current 59 yen as symbolic price of Japan's deflationary economy. AFP

No. 2 US finance firm probed

WASHINGTON—Federal prosecutors on Wednesday revealed a criminal probe into Freddie Mac, two days after the No. 2 US mortgage finance company cleared out its senior management over accounting irregularities.

In addition, Freddie Mac confirmed the Securities and Exchange Commission has begun a formal investigation and said the SEC has been carrying out an informal probe since January.

But the news was tempered by evidence of undimmed market appetite for the company's debt as Freddie Mac pressed ahead successfully with a $1-billion bond sale on Wednesday.

Federal Reserve Governor Susan Bies also downplayed the risk of short-term economic fallout from the company's woes.

Earlier, Freddie Mac said it would buy back as much as $10 billion of debt, triple its prior record buyback.

"The initial news (of the investigation) spooked some people and spreads widened out, but I don't see a lot of panic in the street," said Steve Mahoney, portfolio manager at Glenmede Trust in Philadelphia. *Reuters*

Treasury supports strong dollar

WASHINGTON—US Treasury Secretary John Snow on Wednesday reiterated the Bush administration's support for a strong dollar and said there was no division between the White House and Treasury Department on the subject.

"The president and I are entirely on the same wave length. I support what he said. He supports what I said," Snow said in an interview on PBS's "Charlie Rose" program.

Snow restated the administration's so-called strong dollar policy when asked about concerns of some market watchers who think the Treasury Department has been talking down the dollar.

"We do support the strong dollar," he said. "Nobody becomes prosperous through devaluation and currency values are best set in open and competitive markets."

With the dollar falling for several weeks, many traders have questioned the administration's commitment.

The White House has denied a shift in policy but Snow's comments last month that he opposed intervention, that dollar weakness helped US exports and a currency's strength should be a factor of economic fundamentals—left markets wondering whether the administration didn't mind a weaker greenback. *Reuters*

Italy eyes pro-growth economic program for European Union

BRUSSELS—Italy said on Wednesday that economic policies in the European Union needed to focus more on growth and set out details of what it has called its "New Deal" for more public investments to boost expansion.

Italian Finance Minister Giulio Tremonti on Tuesday gave some details of the Italian plan, involving the European Investment Bank (EIB) issuing bonds worth up to one percent of EU GDP, or around 70 billion euros a year.

"Growth in Europe has been unsatisfactory for the third year in a row ... We must open a new phase in the conduct of economic policy in Europe, focused on growth," the Italian government said in documents outlining some of the priorities of its forthcoming presidency of the EU, starting on July 1.

It detailed suggestions made on Tuesday on how the EIB could give a fillip to the EU economy. It said an EU finance ministers meeting in July could mandate the European Commission and the EIB to present a proposal on the plan in time to be endorsed by an EU summit due in December in Brussels.

Italy said the EIB could create a new European Investment Facility, boosting the current rate of investment by 0.5 to one percent of GDP and using various loan instruments.

"In Europe, we have a strong and well established macroeconomic policy framework," the document said, referring to the stability and growth pact and the European Central Bank's decision-making on interest rates and keeping inflation low.

"This has been necessary but is not sufficient. It represents a basis to develop a decisive action, to reverse the stagnating trend of the European economy," the document said.

The document said Italy wanted the role of the EIB to be further developed to step up the financing it already provides for a set of EU-wide infrastructure projects.

"Four main instruments, some of which are new and others an adaptation of existing ones, could be combined to offer a powerful and yet flexible contribution from the EIB," it said.

These could include senior loans, with extra long durations of up to 35 years in certain cases, guarantees, equity and quasi-equity and mezzanine deals, an extension of its already existing structured finance facility, and securitization deals.

It said the impact of these plans on the deadline for the EIB's next capital increase would have to be taken into account.

The bank only this year boosted its capital to 150 billion euros from 100 billion, which was due to last for five to six years.

The securitization deals would involve the EIB sponsoring and organizing a special vehicle that could buy portfolios of loans from national financial institutions, securitize them and issue AAA bonds to the market, the document said. *Reuters*

S. Korean economy bottomed, recovery on the way, bank says

SEOUL—South Korea's central bank on Thursday held its key interest rate unchanged at 4.0 percent and predicted the economy would recover after hitting bottom in the second quarter.

Bank of Korea governor Park Seung said the economy was still slowing but would show "a modest recovery" in the second half on easing concerns about Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and on the back of a stabilizing local financial market.

"We believe the second quarter is the bottom for the economy. We will see a modest recovery in the second half," Park said, adding rates had been maintained to help stabilize the country's money and real estate markets.

The bank cut its call rate target by 0.25 percentage points last month after holding the key overnight interbank borrowing rate unchanged for the previous 11 months.

Park said that while he predicted a recovery in the second half, real estate prices needed to be curbed further and yields on benchmark bonds were falling too rapidly.

"Continued falls in yields on the benchmark state bonds are abnormal," Park said at a press conference.

"It cannot last long, nor should it be allowed," he said.

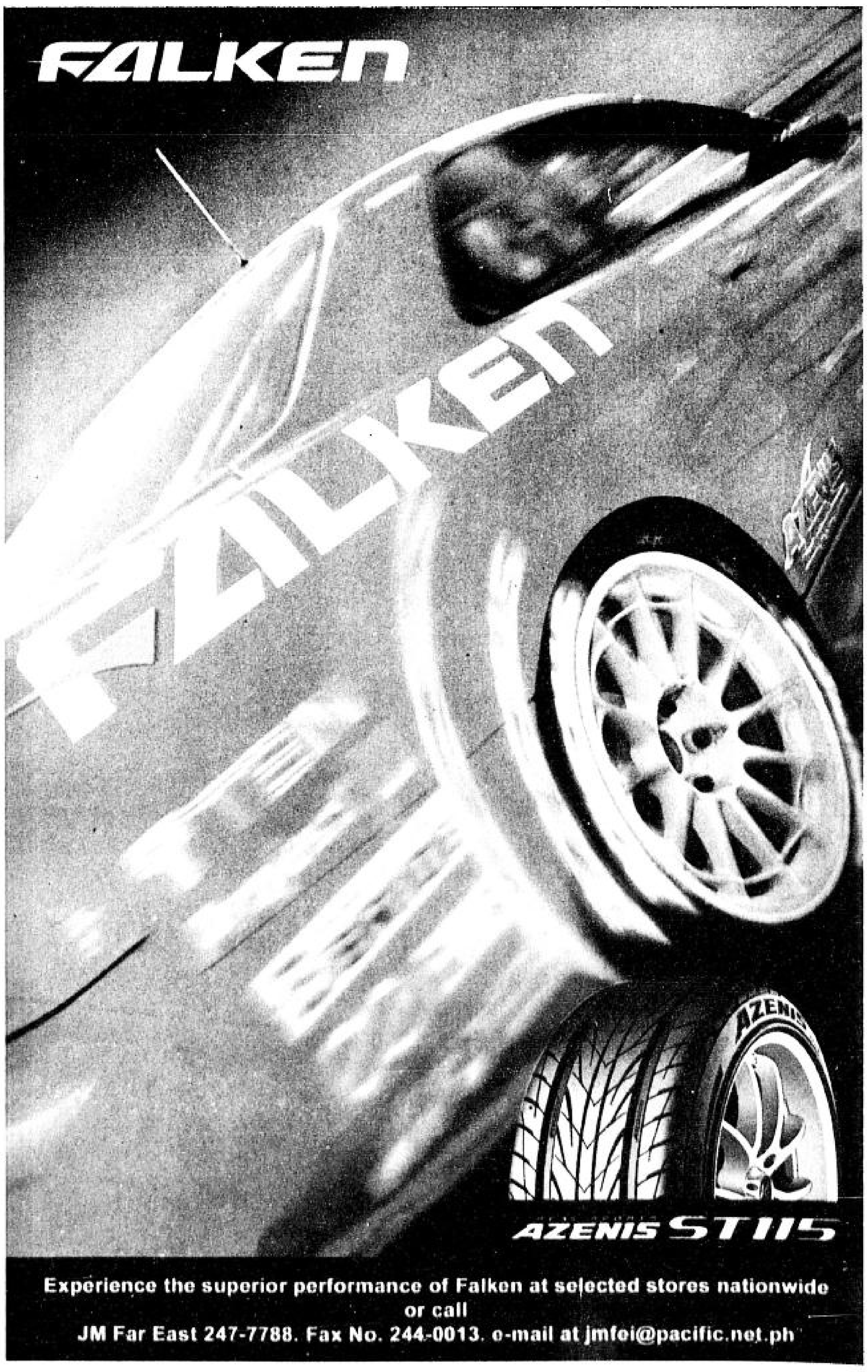
"The bubble on the bond market will inevitably burst when the stock market and economy recovers," he added.

He expressed concerns about real estate price hikes despite some signs of change thanks to a series of government measures to curb speculative investments in the property market.

"Real estate prices are showing signs of stability but (the situation) still needs to be closely monitored," Park said.

Most market analysts and economists expected the central bank to keep the key borrowing rate unchanged.

The bank estimated the current account balance, in deficit for five months since December, would shift to surplus in May. *AFP*



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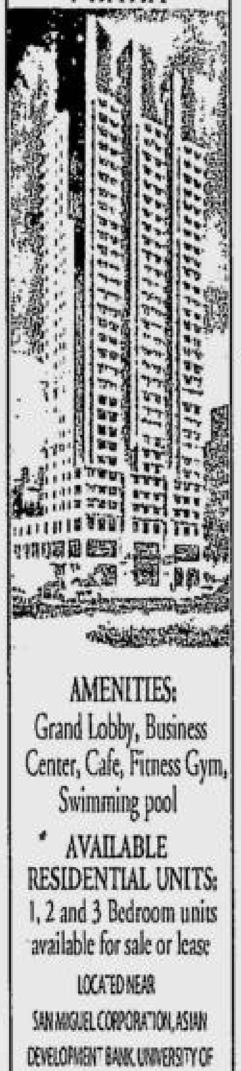

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INVITATION TO BID

The Leyte V Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO V), Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City, Leyte, invites all eligible suppliers to submit bids for the supply of Line Materials, Hardware and Equipment for the following Line Expansions: a) 3rd Leyte District – four (4) Sitios funded under NEA Subsidy 2003; b) 4th Leyte District – two (2) Sitios funded under NEA Subsidy 2003 and; c) 4th Leyte District – Nine (9) Sitios funded under NPC – XL.

Bid documents shall be issued to interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Hundred Pesos Only (P500.00) starting June 19, 2003.

Pre-bid conference will be held on **June 26, 2003 at 1:30** in the afternoon at LEYECO V Boardroom, Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City.

Sealed bids will be received by the Pre-bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), at LEYECO V Main Office in Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City, Leyte on **July 10, 2003 at 1:30** in the afternoon, at which time and place said proposals will be opened and read in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

LEYECO V reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any minor defects or informalities therein and to accept any or all offers or proposals as may be considered most responsive and advantageous to the Cooperative. It assumes no obligation whatsoever for any expenses or loss that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) JOVENAL L. ALESNA
General Manager

(PDI–June 13 and 16, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that Tita Cahatol Pabito has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from Tecla to Tita in the birth certificate of Tecla Cahatol who was born on 23 September 1963 at Macalingan, Lila, Bohol and whose parents are Tranquilino Cahatol and Hermogina Legria.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than 13 June 2003.

(Sgd.) LEO G. WABE
City Civil Registrar

(PDI - June 6 & 13, 2003)

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Mktg Person'l 09192535523 Glenda

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CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP / NAME / HOMEPORT

Notice is hereby served to the public that FB Raymar – II is presently owned by Ocean Green Ray Corporation has filed with the Maritime Industry Authority for a Change of Vessel Ownership from Oscar N. Monte de Ramos to Ocean Green Ray Corporation. Change of Vessel Homeport from Dumaguete to Cebu and Change of Vessel Name from FB RAYMAR - II to FB DOROTHY

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Irrigation Materials (Drippers, LDPE Pipes, Coupling, etc.)	Brgy. Sinturisan Sitio Owakan, San Antonio Quezon	Negotiable

For inquiries and further details, please call Mr. Froilan Tejada at 885-3739 and (0917) 627 8288 or Mr. Ariel Matubis at 885 3706. Offers should be sent to the above officers at Building E, Bonifacio Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila not later than June 25, 2003. All offers to purchase shall be subject to approval by company approving authority.

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PILAR PABINES PAZ

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on June 3, 2003 at the age of 80.

Her bereaved family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Don Bosco Chapel, Pasay Road, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 15, 2003 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

Our Dearly Beloved

MERCEDES "Nanning" VILLASEÑOR CARIÑO

of Lucban, Quezon and Merville, Parañaque

Peacefully joined our Lord on June 11, 2003 at the age of 71.

Her loving husband **Angel Perlas Cariño**; children **Monique** (†), **Monette & Ed Inocencio**, **Molette & Jun Soliman**, **Movette**, **Mozette** and **Modette**; grandchildren; sister **Navidad** (†); brothers **Juancho** and **Silverio**; nephews and nieces; brothers and sisters-in-law request fervent prayers and special petition for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Our Lady of Beautiful Love Parish, Resurrection Chapel, Merville Park, Parañaque.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 15, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque, after the 1:00 p.m. Holy Mass in Our Lady of Beautiful Love Parish, Merville, Parañaque.

> ***"The valiant woman - she is always busy and does her work with eager hands."***
> (Proverbs 31:13)

SR. MARY BRENDA FLAHIVE, R.G.S.

(Agnes Garvey Flahive)

of County Kerry, Ireland
joined her Shepherd God on June 11, 2003 after
seventy-one years of
missionary zeal in the Philippines.

Interment will be today, June 13, 2003
at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the
9:00 AM Mass.

The **Environmental Education Network of the Philippines (EENP)** announces with deep sorrow the passing of its former University Extension Specialist

Araceli D. Librero

who joined her maker on June 11, 2003.

We condole with her loving husband **Felix Librero** and her son **Al Francis Librero**.

Her remains lie in state at St. Therese Chapel, Los Baños.

Necrological services will be held today, June 13, 2003, 7:00 p.m. at SESAM, UP Los Baños.

The Burial Mass will be on Saturday, June 14, 2003, 11:00 a.m.

Celi served the EENP long and well. She will be terribly missed.

In Loving Memory
on the 25th Death Anniversary of

GENARO M. DIMALANTA

who passed away on June 13, 1978

Holy Masses will be offered today at:

Sta. Maria della Strada Parish, *Katipunan cor. Pan sol St., Q.C.*	6:00AM/6:00PM
Our Lady of Pentecost Parish,	6:30AM
F. dela Rosa cor. C. Salvador Sts., Loyola Hts., Q.C.	6:30PM
St. Joseph Parish, *Quirino District, Q.C.*	7:00AM/6:00PM
Monasterio de Santa Clara, *Katipunan Road, Q.C.*	6:00AM
Holy Rosary Parish, *Angeles City*	7:45AM
Carmelite Monastery, *Angeles City*	6:00AM
St. Catherine Parish Porac, *Pampanga*	6:00AM

The family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

ATTY. MARIANO V. AMPIL JR.

Peacefully joined the Lord on May 30, 2003
in Tokyo, Japan.

We, the members of his family, respectfully request the pious readers to fervently pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Christ the King Church, Green Meadows Avenue, Green Meadows, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 15, 2003 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park in Novaliches, Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

NIEVES CENDAÑA ESPERON

January 10, 1920 - June 11, 2003

has rejoined the **GREAT CREATOR** at the age of 83 and is now with beloved husband **HERMOGENES DE LEON ESPERON SR** in the bliss of everlasting life.

Her bereaved children:

Rodrigo & **Mila**
Linda & **Steve**
Hermogenes Jr & **Lorna**
Norma & **Marcelo** (deceased)
Jaime & **Nora**
Virginia & **Sabu**
Danilo (deceased) & **Emma**

request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at her home in **ASINGAN, PANGASINAN.**

Interment will be on June 21, 2003 at Asingan Municipal Cemetery.

DEATH NOTICES

ERIBERTO "BO" R. SANCHEZ

Died on June 10, 2003 at the age of 76.

His remains lie in state at Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City.

Interment tomorrow Saturday, June 14, 2003 at the Manila South Cemetery, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

MARCELINO C. LACONSAY

Died at the age of 75.

His body lies in state at the Forest Hill Funeral Homes, Quirino Hiway, Novaliches, QC.
Interment tomorrow, June 14, 2003, 2:00 p.m. at Holy Cross Memorial Park, San Bartolome, Novaliches, QC.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
TASK FORCE ENGINEERING, ASSESSMENT & MONITORING
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

IFB Number : 2001-03-SEMP-DepED-BEFP June 3, 2003
Loan No. 4535/7118 PH
Project Title : CY 2001 Social Expenditure Management Project 1 & 2 (SEMP 1 & 2) 10% Unallocated Portion
Contract Title : Construction and Rehabilitation of School Buildings for Public Elementary and High Schools in NCR and Region III (as one package)

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for the Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) to provide a budget support facility towards the financing of the Social Expenditure Management Project 1 & 2 (SEMP 1 & 2) in various currencies. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this facility will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the Basic Education Facilities Program (BEFP) to be implemented by the Department of Education (DepED).
2. The Department of Education (DepED) through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of DepED Central Office, DepED Complex, Pasig City now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the bidding of the construction/rehabilitation of school buildings located in the NCR and Region III as one package.

	School	Scope of Works
a.	V. Mapa HS, Manila	General rewiring of 44 classrooms and improvement of school facilities
b.	Balara ES, Q.C.	Construction of 2 Storey 4 Classrooms & roofing replacement of a 3 Storey building.
c.	Maybunga ES, Pasig City	Rehabilitation of school buildings
d.	Apalit Tech'l HS Apalit, Pampanga	Construction of 2 Storey, 6 Classrooms & 1 Storey, 2 Classrooms.

3. For purposes of this bid, eligible bidders must have experience in works of a similar nature and complexity over the last five years.
4. Interested eligible bidders may acquire a complete set of bid documents starting June 5, 2003 upon submission of a letter of intent to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) at DepED Central Office, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City, Tel. No. 636-65-43 and payment of a non-refundable fee of Php3,000.00.
5. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of the Contract are provisions of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Works.
6. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by security of three (3%) percent of total bid price in the form of a bank guarantee; cashier's/manager's check or an irrevocable letter of credit.
7. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders on July 3, 2003, 10:00 a.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.
8. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on June 18, 2003; 2:00 p.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.
9. The Department of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to Bidders.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary and Chair, Bids and Awards Committee
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

(PDI–June 6 & 13, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
For Locally Funded Projects

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), through its Bid and Award Committee (BAC) for Locally Funded Project, invites contractor registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the following projects:

Name of Project/Location/Description/ Source of Fund	ABC	PCAB/IAC/Equipment
1. Balingasag Port Dev't. Project Poblacion Balingasag, Misamis Oriental Extension of Reinforced Concrete Pier CY 2002 GAA	1,811,682.21	Small "B" for Ports, Harbor and Offshore Engineering One-Bagger Mixer; Concrete Vibrator; Bar Cutter, Water Truck; 50T Truck Mounted Crane; K-35 Diesel Pile Hammer; 1T Drop Hammer; Pump Boat; Crane Barge Feeder Barge Service Vehicle
2. Picorobuan Port Dev't. Project Bolinao, Pangasinan Extension of Seawall CY 2003 GAA	928.766.49	Small "B" for Ports, Harbor and Offshore Engineering Road Grader Backhoe; Dumptruck; Road Roller; Water Truck; Service Vehicle: One-Bagger Mixer; Concrete Vibrator; Bar Cutter
3. Sasmuan Port Dev't. Project Sasmuan, Pampanga Improvement of Fish Port CY 2003 GAA	1,559,183.47	Small "B" for Ports, Harbor and Offshore Engineering Dumptruck; Jackhammer; Backhoe; One-Bagger Mixer; Concrete Vibrator; Bar Cutter

Prospective contractors should possess the minimum IAC Classification as described, and had undertaken similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification of the lowest calculated bid and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of E.O. 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The Prequalification/Eligibility Screening Form will be available to interested bidders on June 12-19, 2003, during office hours (8:00 am - 5:00 pm) at Unit 55, 5th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, upon submission of letter of intent, copy of updated PCAB/IAC License, and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 to the DOTC Cashier. Interested bidders shall submit their duly accomplished Prequalification/Eligibility Screening Form and attachments to the same Office, not later than 5:00 p.m. of June 23, 2003. The results of the eligibility screening will be available in the same office on June 06, 2003.

Bid/Tender Documents will be available to eligible bidders for issuance on July 06-13, 2003 (8:00am-5:00pm) at Unit 55, 5th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,500.00 to the DOTC Cashier.

The DOTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive minor defect and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

The DOTC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **RENE E. MAGLANQUE**
Assistant Secretary for Finance and Comptrollership
Chairman, Bid and Award Committee (BAC)

(PDI--June 6 & 13, 2003)

National Power Corporation

June 5, 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION/ ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL Power Corporation (NPC)** invites all Cargo Protection Services Provider, to apply for Registration and Eligibility Screening to act as NPC's representatives at the load port (China, Australia and Indonesia) during the implementation of contract for the supply and delivery of imported coal to NPC and its Independent Power Producers (IPP's).

Complete sets of registration and eligibility requirements are available for issuance at the Office of the Bids and Contract Services Department (BCSD), NPC-OBC, Diliman, Quezon City.

Prospective Suppliers/Consultants shall be evaluated as to eligibility based on the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria prescribed in the eligibility requirements. Eligible Suppliers/Consultants shall be short listed to seven (7) based on the following criteria and rating system:

1. The firm must be actively/directly engaged in Cargo Protection/ Inspection Services for at least one (1) year
2. Must employ at least three (3) qualified Cargo Protection Inspectors who are all at least:
   a) Vocational School graduate in Chemical Technology or related courses and have completed at least 60 hours of relevant training in Cargo Protection and
   b) Has at least one (1) year relevant experience as cargo protector/inspector
3. Rating Criteria

			Wtd. Eq
A	Quality of Personnel	50%	
	1. Education		25%
	2. Training		35%
	3. Experience		40%
B	Experience	50%	
	1. Track Record		60%
	2. Amount of Current & Previous contract(s) for the last 3 years		40%

Schedule of Activities:

Application and submission of Registration Requirements	: **June 9-16, 2003**
Application and submission of Eligibility Screening Requirements	: **June 16-26, 2003**
Pre-Bid Conference	: **June 20, 2003**; 1:30 p.m. (Pahiyas Room, Solarium)
Bidding Schedule	: **July 4, 2003**; 10:00 a.m. (Pahiyas Room, Solarium)
Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)	: P210,000/ shipment/panamax

For inquiries, kindly contact the Bids and Contracts Services Department (BCSD); NPC, Diliman, Quezon City at Tel. No. (632) 924-5211 / (632) 922-4048 or log on at sediaman@napocor.com.ph.

(Sgd.) **SILVANO C. ZANORIA**
SVP, ME & TMS and
Chairman, Contracts Awards Committee

(PDI - June 13 & 14, 2003)

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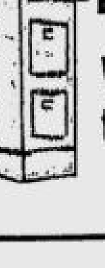

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MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC PHILIPPINES CORPORATION
JOINT VENTURE: MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND. CO., LTD.
Bo. Mapandan, Ortigas Avenue Extension, Taytay, Rizal

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 2003 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of **MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC PHILIPPINES CORPORATION**, will be held at the Human Development Center, Matsushita Electric Philippines Corporation, Bo. Mapandan, Ortigas Avenue Extension, Taytay, Rizal on **June 20, 2003** at 5:00 PM. The Agenda of the meeting is setforth below:

1. National Anthem
2. Call to Order
3. Establishment of Quorum
4. President's Annual Report
5. Approval of Minutes of 2002 Annual Stockholder's Meeting
6. Financial Report
7. Ratification of all acts, resolutions and proceedings of the Board of Directors and Management
8. Election of New Members of the Board of Directors
9. Other Business
10. Adjournment

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on **May 19, 2003** as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice and to vote at the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Stockholders who will not be able to attend the meeting may designate their respective proxies and send the proxy forms to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than **June 18, 2003.**

Registration starts at 3:00 PM on the scheduled meeting. For your convenience in registering your attendance, please present any form of identification such as your Professional I.D., Passport or Driver's License.

Taytay, Rizal, May 25, 2003.

(Sgd.) **MAMERTO Z. MONDRAGON**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI – June 13, 2003)

PNOC PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY)

11/F, BA Lepanto Building
8747 Paseo de Roxas
1227 Makati City, Philippines

Tel. No.: 892-0293
892-0283
810-7161

Fax No.: 892-0346

INVITATION TO REGISTER, APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PNOC Petrochemical Development Corporation (PPDC) invites interested Filipino contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB), and in good standing to register, apply for eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the following projects described below:

Project Title	Approved Budget	PCAB License Minimum Reqt.	Scope of Work/Duration	Similar Contracts
1. PPDC Jetty Piles Corrosion Protection Project (WSC-02-010)	P18,303,150.00	Port, Harbor and Offshore Engineering / Medium B	Application of Corrosion Protection System / 180 CD	Construction of Ports, Harbor and Pier Facilities
2. Construction of PPDC Environmental Laboratory (WSC-03-001)	P5,600,000.00	Building and Industrial Plant / Medium A	Construction of 200 sq.m. laboratory building / 150 CD	Construction of Building and Industrial Facilities

A. Both projects are to be located at the Petrochemical Industrial Estate (PIE) in Limay and Mariveles, Bataan, with funding to be provided by PPDC.

B. Only contractors duly registered with PPDC shall be allowed to participate in the eligibility screening. Interested bidders must register not later than the deadline of submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) on June 25, 2003. A list of basic requirements for registration is available from the BAC Secretariat at the above address.

C. Eligibility statement forms will be issued to registered bidders from **June 16 - July 4, 2003**, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per project.

D. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using a "PASS/FAIL" criteria, and only eligible bidders shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the Contractor's offer, subject to Post-qualification before an award is made. Bid prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.

E. SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Submission of Eligibility requirements	July 11, 2003
Issuance of Bid Documents	August 2 - 11, 2003
Pre-bid Conference	August 14, 2003
Submission and Opening of Bids	August 29, 2003

F. All particulars relative to registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of Executive Order No. 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

G. PPDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PPDC. PPDC further assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss they may incur in the preparation of their bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - June 5 & 13, 2003)

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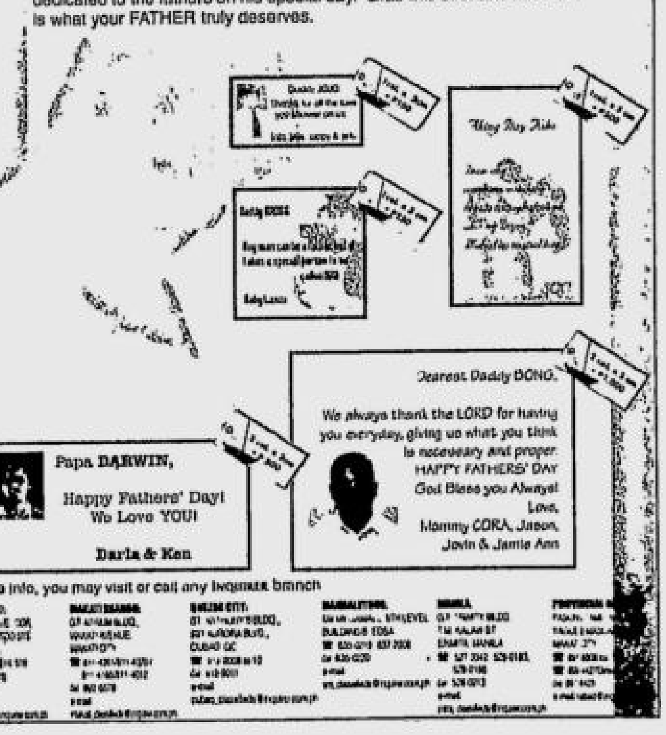
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Happy Fathers' Day!
We Love YOU!
Darla & Ken
Dearest Daddy BONG,
We always thank the LORD for having you everyday, giving us what you think is necessary and proper.
HAPPY FATHERS' DAY
God Bless you Always!
Love,
Mommy CORA, Jason, Jovin & Jamie Ann

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AN INVESTOR walks past monitors showing the stocks index at a local securities in Taipei June 12. Taiwan share prices rose 1.54 percent in active trade on Wall Street's overnight gains amid hopes of a US interest rate cut, dealers said. The weighted index closed up 73.78 points at 4,878.43 on turnover of 109.38 billion Taiwan dollars ($3.15 billion). AFP

Japan economy flat, BOJ says

TOKYO—The Bank of Japan said on Thursday that Japan's exports, recently the economy's brightest spot, were weakening but it kept its overall economic assessment unchanged for the month, noting that "overall conditions are flat."

In its report in May the BOJ downgraded its view for the first time in six months, citing growing uncertainties.

The June assessment omitted a reference in last month's report to the adverse impact of the yen's appreciation.

This time, the bank simply said the yen had depreciated somewhat due to market concerns over intervention and because of an improvement in US economic indicators.

In May, Japanese authorities conducted the largest ever monthly volume of intervention, selling some four trillion yen ($34 billion) to stem the yen's rise.

The BOJ, which decided on Wednesday to leave its ultra-loose monetary policy unchanged, said exports would weaken or stay flat as Asian economies were likely to slow temporarily due to a fall in demand in South Korea and the impact from the SARS virus.

It said it also expected the pace of recovery in the US economy to remain moderate.

"Substantial uncertainties remain due to the outlook for the US and European economies, as well as the impact from the SARS virus on East Asia," the central bank said.

On the domestic front, the BOJ had a slightly optimistic view on capital spending, saying it was on a gradual recovery trend.

Corporate profits were improving but the pace was mild, it added.

Industrial production was expected to remain flat, it said. *Reuters*

Crude oil prices surge above $32 a barrel

NEW YORK—Oil prices surged above $32 a barrel for the first time since mid-March on Wednesday, as traders fretted about scant supplies, the rising price of natural gas and a signal from Opec that production cuts might be on the horizon.

The weak dollar is also making it more expensive to buy oil, analysts said.

Crude for July delivery finished up 63 cents to $32.36 on the New York Mercantile Exchange Wednesday.

The last time Nymex oil futures closed higher than $32 a barrel was March 17, a few days before the start of the war in Iraq.

Prices then fell sharply after US-led forces quickly secured Iraq's most abundant oil fields and analysts speculated that the country's supply would make up for lost production elsewhere.

As the military conflict wound down, crude futures dropped as low as $25.24 on April 29. But prices have risen steadily since then as it became clear that Iraq's oil industry was in bad shape and that the country's crude would not flood the global market anytime soon.

"The market is starting to wake up to the fact that while Iraq is going to be a big deal down the road, near-term it isn't going to be much of a contributor to world supplies," said Phil Flynn, an analyst at Alaron Trading Corp. in Chicago.

Iraq, which pumped around 2.1 million barrels a day before the war, is now producing below 1 million barrels a day.

On the domestic front, the Energy Department reported Wednesday that commercial inventories of crude fell last week by 4.6 million barrels to 284.4 million barrels, or 12 percent below year ago levels.

Refiners are drawing down crude inventories in order to meet the nation's gasoline needs at the start of the busy summer driving season. Supplies were already low because of a two-month strike that paralyzed oil production in Venezuela, the world's fifth largest petroleum exporter. *AP*

Asian stocks up on US recovery hopes

SINGAPORE—Asian stocks stretched out their winning streak on Thursday, notching up fresh multi-month highs on hopes of better times for the United States, the region's main export market.

Japanese stocks notched up their highest close in six months, while a broad index of shares elsewhere in Asia scored 11-month peaks.

The latest gains in Asian stocks came after US stock indices hit their best levels for the year on Federal Reserve comments that the end of the Iraq war had provided some boost to US business and consumer sentiment.

Tokyo's Nikkei average closed up a third of a percent at 8,918.60 after briefly breaking through 9,000 for a second day.

The broad MSCI Asia Pacific Free Index ex-Japan was up three-quarters of a percent after earlier hitting its highest level since July.

Leading the advance was Singapore, which rose 1.7 percent to a seven-and-a-half-month high by midday. Taiwan closed up 1.5 percent at a four-month peak.

"The market has already seen all the bad news—war, SARS, high oil prices and a recession. We are taking advantage of that and moving ahead," said Najeeb Jarhom, director at Fraser-AMMB Research in Singapore.

Hong Kong rose more than half a percent by midday. South Korea closed up one percent while Australia gained almost 0.5 percent.

"The bull run on Wall Street is providing some confidence to the market," said Park Seung-kyun, an analyst at Shinyoung Securities in Korea.

But Indonesian shares fell 2.7 percent in morning trade as PT Telkom, the market's largest firm, slumped 6.4 percent on news of problems with its financial report to the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Average jumped 1.4 percent to 9,183.22. The Nasdaq Composite Index gained 1.1 percent to 1,646.02.

Among individual stocks, big Japanese banks gained after the Bank of Japan announced steps on Wednesday to help small firms having trouble borrowing from the struggling banks. *Reuters*

Global chip sales seen up

SAN JOSE, California—Worldwide semiconductor sales are expected to grow to more than $180 billion in 2004, marking a 16.8 percent rise against projected sales for 2003, the Semiconductor Industry Association said Wednesday.

Global chip sales are seeing rising to 180.9 billion in 2004 compared with an estimated $154.9-billion rise, or 10.1 percent, in 2003, according to the SIA.

"The recovery is broad-based across computer, consumer and communications applications as they all continue to be drivers for the industry," said SIA President George Scalise.

"The forecast contemplates a return to higher IT (Information Technology) spending levels and the emergence of multi-function products such as smart phones," Scalise said.

The leading trade group said chip sales are improving overseas but that the US market remains lackluster.

The SIA sees US sales falling this year by 30.6 billion before rebounding to grow by 35.4 billion, or 15.7 percent, in 2004.

"Semiconductor consumption is forecast to continue a migration from the Americas to Asia-Pacific, reflecting the outsourcing of electronic equipment manufacturing, including component sourcing and design services, to the region," Scalise said.

The trade group sees chip sales increasing in Europe, Japan and across Asia Pacific through 2003 and 2004.

It said sales prospects currently look strongest across the Asia-Pacific region. *AFP*

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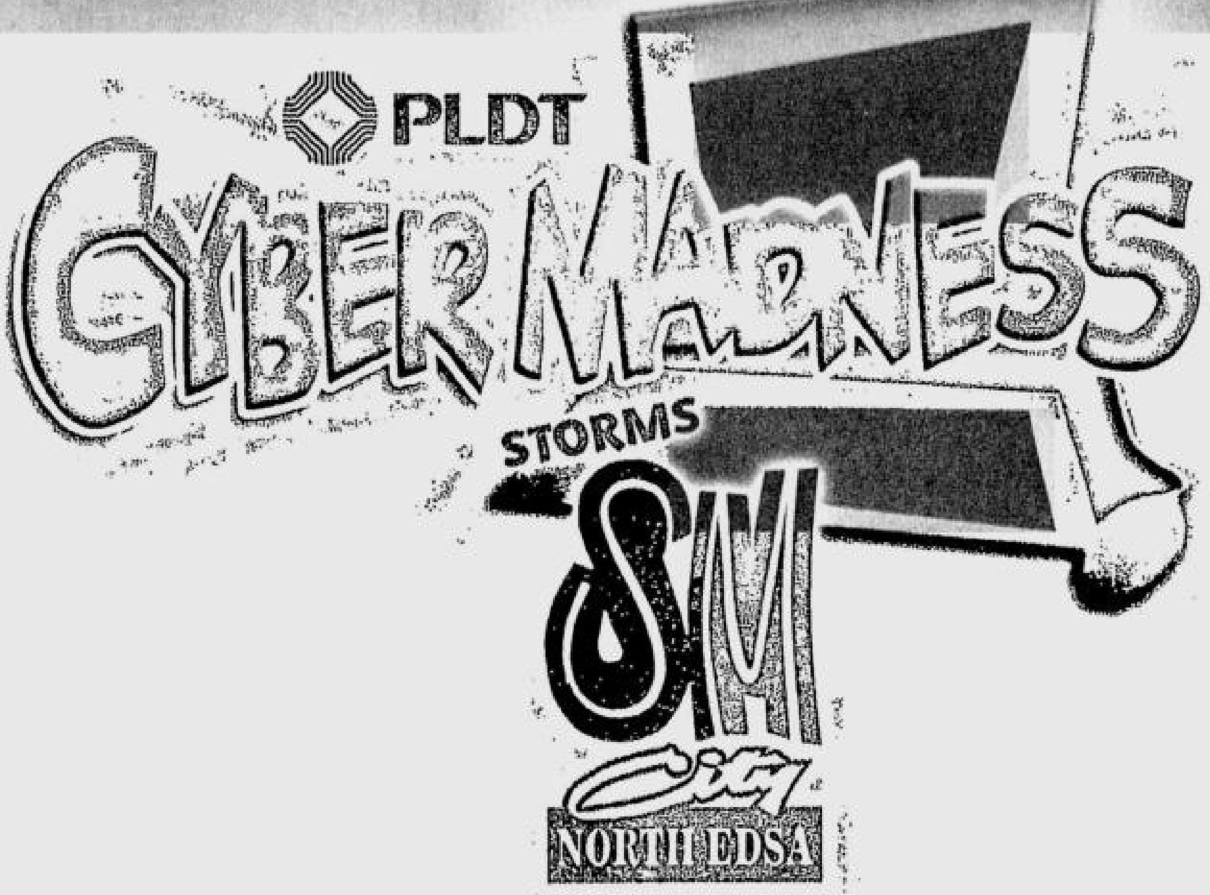

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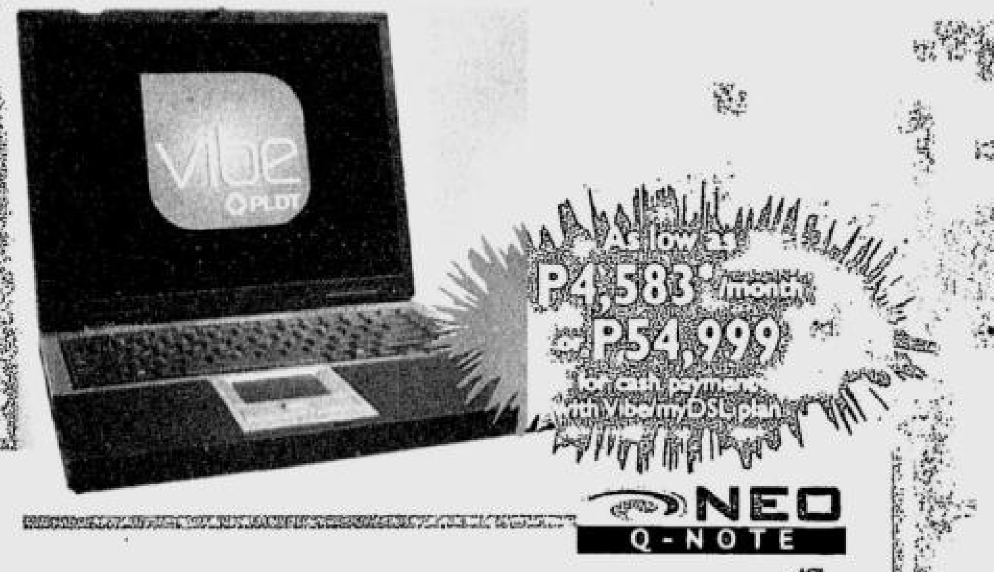

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NEO VOLITION	34,499.00	29,999.00	4,500.00	2,499.00	550.00	1,100.00	2,500.00	3,000.00	5,600.00	6,700.00	9,000.00	9,500.00
NEO QNOTE	60,999.00	54,999.00	6,000.00	4,583.00	550.00	1,100.00	2,500.00	3,000.00	7,100.00	8,200.00	10,500.00	11,000.00
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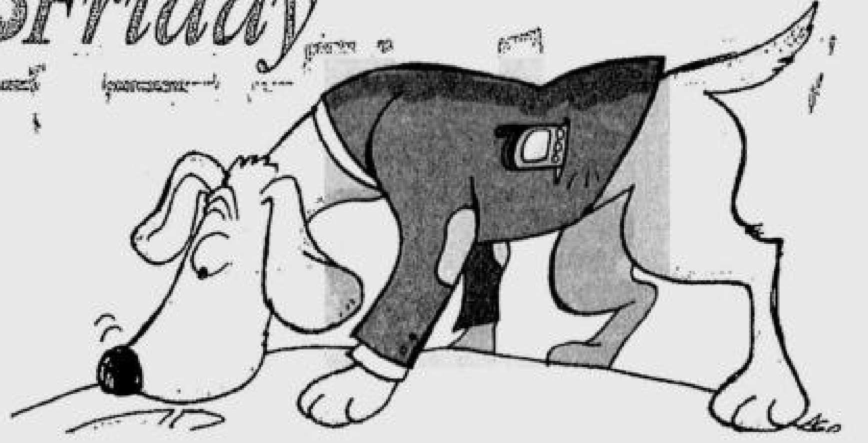
Tracking opportunities in the marketplace



By Karen V. de Asis
Contributor

ONE of the many skills of a successful marketer is the ability to track market opportunities much like a hound after its prey. More than ever, at this time of hyper-competition, diverse and segmented markets, marketers are required to be trend trackers and skillful solution providers who can evolve the company and its brands to become more responsive to the changing marketplace.

Trend tracking and the capability to spot opportunities is but one piece of the puzzle. Another is the company's vision and commitment to take advantage of these opportunities. Here is where marketers often face a crossroad—respond to opportunities where the brand or company has the present strength or take the path less traveled and consider better opportunities where the company or brand might need to acquire or develop certain strengths.

This unique skill to track trends grounded on the marketer's keen sensitivity and intuitiveness when it comes to customer needs and wants makes the marketer different from other functional organization experts. This is made more formidable by the marketer's experience and skillful training in matching the needs and wants with the brand's surreal promise.

Below are some of the trends, many at its infancy stage locally, but already shaping the new marketing landscape.

Emerging mass market for health and wellness products and services, functional foods and nutraceuticals

A baby boomer population preoccupied with aging gracefully, a growing awareness that good health extends longevity and increasing healthcare costs have led consumers to be more vigilant about their health. Thus, the rising need for products and services that promote good health and well-being.

TRACKING/ B2-2

For low costs, more romance, say I do in Baguio

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Romance is a very expensive investment in the Philippines. The pulp romance novels cost teenagers up to P700 a book, and the dinner date scenarios they manage to extract from these pages cost them a lifetime's savings.

But getting the bride (or the groom) over the threshold shouldn't cost these lovers an arm and a leg. Not when they can say "I do's" for a cheaper rate in Baguio City.

A group of wedding planners has started marketing Baguio as the ultimate romantic wedding destination chiefly because the ingredients that put up the grandest weddings in Metro Manila come rather cheap in the city.

Baguio is a transshipment point for flowers, vegetables and fabric that often force couples to shell out an additional P30,000 just to get Benguet-grown lilies, roses or orchids for their lavish Manila weddings, says Gigi Ozaeta Maranan, one of the owners of Heaven's Touch.

Heaven's Touch has been organizing portrait artists, florists, wedding designers and wedding caterers into a North Luzon wedding package that can draw the bridal market to Baguio.

Maranan and partner Cynthia Tabora-Tuazon also produced "Weddings Made in Heaven," a fashion show and trade exhibition that showcased Luzon's alternative wedding packages in April.

The Baguio-based wedding coordinators have been banking on a 30-percent price slash in average wedding costs to draw Metro Manila couples to Baguio.

An average wedding in Metro Manila can cost a couple up to P500,000, to cover for Baguio flowers, caterers and the reception venue, says Maranan.

A comparatively lavish Baguio wedding, she says, can cost from P100,000 to P300,000, with the added benefits of "nature's free air-conditioning and the absence of Metro Manila traffic jams."

Tuazon says the industry has been ready for exclusive Baguio weddings for sometime now. The Manila wedding market drifted recently to points outside the metropolis, according to a recent industry survey.

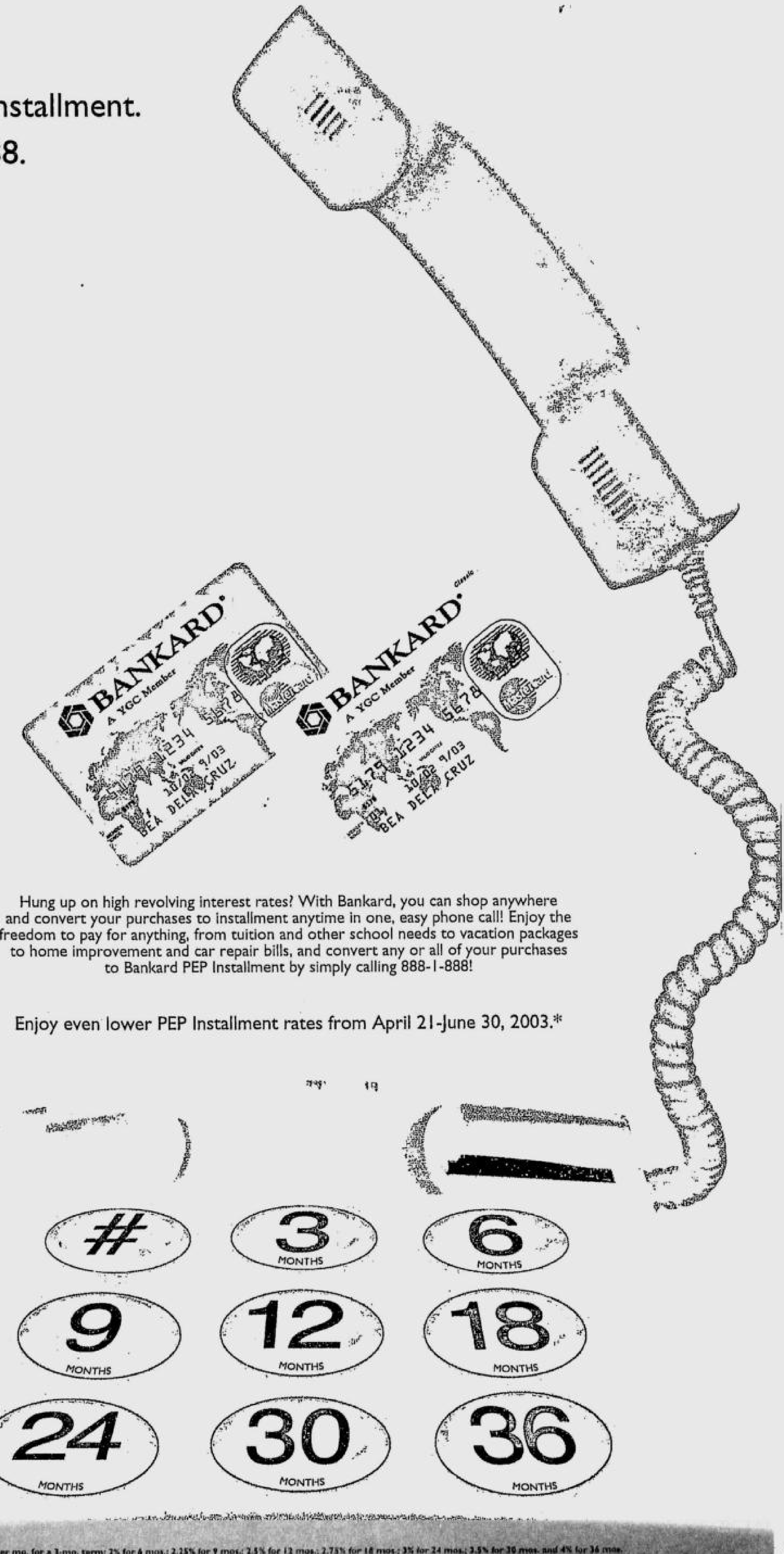
"Wedding coordinators found out that couples are ready for wedding destinations. They have been promoting Tagaytay as a wedding destination (because) it was close to Manila. Cavite became another marketed destination. Baguio was never considered a destination until they saw the potentials," Tuazon says.

For Baguio, a wedding industry boom would at one level be considered a renaissance. Baguio was the romantic haunt during the 1950s and the 1960s, Virginia de Guia, a former Baguio mayor, says in an early interview. "Couples rushed to Baguio to wed, after making *tanan* (eloping)."

Baguio used to draw movie stars and politicians, and for nearly a decade after World War II, the city hosted celebrity weddings that helped attract tourists, De Guia says.

FOR/ B2-2

STUDENTS model Cynthia Tabora-Tuazon's gown. She is part of a group pushing for Baguio as a wedding place. PHOTOS BY EV ESPIRITU



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VAT happened to banks

By Czarina R. Miranda
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance and the Bureau of Internal Revenue ended years of suspense and imposed the value-added tax on banks as provided under Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 12-2003 last March 10.

RA 8424, or the National Internal Revenue Code, which took effect on Jan. 1, 1998, provided for the imposition of VAT on the sale of goods or the sale or exchange of services.

Services refer to the performance of all kinds of services in the Philippines for a fee, remuneration or consideration, including those performed or rendered by financial institutions. The transitory provisions of RA 8424, however, deferred the effectivity of the VAT on these entities until Dec. 31, 1999.

This deferment was extended to Dec. 31, 2000 with the issuance of RA 8761, and again delayed for another two years, to take effect only on Jan. 1, 2003 pursuant to RA 9010.

RR 12-2003 paved the way for the shift from the gross receipts taxation imposed on these entities to a value-added taxation system.

Coverage

RR 12-2003 governs the imposition of the VAT on banks and other financial institutions, such as non-bank financial intermediaries including quasi banks and finance companies. This, however, excludes insurance companies.

Banks specifically include universal banks, commercial banks, thrift banks (savings and mortgage banks, stock savings and loan associations and private development banks), cooperative banks, rural banks, Islamic banks and other classifications of banks as may be determined by the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Non-bank financial intermediaries refer to entities whose functions include the lending, investing or placement of funds or evidences of indebtedness or equity deposited with, acquired by or otherwise coursed through them, either for their own account or for the account of others.

These also include all other entities regularly engaged in the lending of funds or purchasing of receivables or other obligations with funds obtained from the public through the issuance, endorsement or acceptance of debt instruments of any kind for their own account, or through the issuance of certificates of assignment or similar instruments with recourse, trust certificates, or of repurchase agreements, whether any of these means of obtaining funds from the public is done on a regular basis or only occasionally.

On the other hand, financing companies refer to corporations except banks, investment houses, savings and loan associations, insurance companies, cooperatives and other financial institutions organized or operating under other special laws, which are primarily organized for the purpose of extending credit facilities to consumers and to industrial, commercial, or agricultural enterprises, by direct lending or by discounting or factoring commercial papers or accounts receivables, or by buying or selling contracts, leases, chattel mortgages, or other evidences of indebtedness or by financial leasing of movable and immovable properties.

Determining the tax base

The amount of VAT payable by a bank is the difference between the VAT on its income/receipts (i.e., output VAT) and the VAT paid on its purchases of goods and services from VAT-registered entities (i.e., input VAT).

The output VAT is determined by applying the 10-percent tax rate either on the bank's gross receipts or the gross selling price depending on the nature of the income/transaction.

RR 12-2003 defines gross receipts as the compensation for all financial and non-financial services, or combination thereof, exclusive of the VAT, performed by financial institutions within the Philippines, which compensation or fees are actually or constructively received during the month or quarter.

Note that the regulations provide that any amount of taxes withheld from the foregoing types of income shall form part of the gross receipts subject to VAT under the doctrine of constructive receipt.

Type of Receipt/Income/ Transaction	Ouput Tax Computation
Financial Intermediation Service Fees/Financial Leasing	Gross Receipts x 10%
Net Foreign Exchange Gains	10% x Monthly Net Foreign Exchange Gains Realized (refers to the difference between the value of the foreign currencies sold and purchased)
Net Trading Gains (arising from the trading of securities, commercial papers and other financial instruments)	10% x Net Gain Realized from Trading (representing the spread between the yield or selling price from trading of securities and the cost of obtaining the same. Cost refers to the carrying cost net of unearned discount of the security sold.)
Ropoa Sales or Sales of Other Properties Acquired Through Foreclosures	10% x Gains from sale (refers to the difference between the amount realized the time of sale and the cost thereof, equal to the bid price or unpaid loan value, whichever is lower, at the time of foreclosure of the property)
Other Sale of Goods or Properties	10% x Gross Selling Price or Gross Value in Money of the goods or properties sold, bartered or exchanged; or, Invoice Amount x 1/11
All Other Income	Gross Receipts x 10%; or, Total Amount Received x 1/11

On the other hand, gross selling price is defined under the regulations as the total amount of money or its equivalent, which the purchaser pays or is obligated to pay to the seller in consideration of the sale, barter or exchange of the goods or properties, excluding the VAT.

Any excise tax on such goods or properties shall form part of the gross selling price.

The table on the left summarizes the manner by which the 10-percent output VAT is computed.

With respect to the input VAT, the regulations mention that banks shall be entitled to claim as credit against its output VAT all input taxes evidenced by a VAT invoice or official receipt which include VAT paid on importations or local purchases of goods and properties and the VAT on purchases of services as evidenced by official receipts.

However, with respect to financial leasing, no input tax shall be allowed on the purchase of goods, which is the object of the contract of lease since only the interest income portion is being recognized or taken into consideration in recording gross receipts.

In addition, for purposes of the initial implementation of RR 12-2003, banks shall be allowed a transitional input VAT on inventory of goods (other than capital goods), materials and supplies on hand as of Dec. 31, 2002, equal to 8 percent of the inventory value or actual VAT paid as duly evidenced by VAT invoices, whichever is higher.

Likewise, banks shall also be entitled to claim as input taxes the VAT paid on its purchases of goods, properties and services covered by VAT invoices and receipts beginning Jan. 1, 2003, provided that they register as VAT taxpayers, on or before March 31, 2003.

Banks, however, shall not be entitled to claim a presumptive input tax on financial intermediation services. While the initial draft of the regulations imposing the VAT on financial institutions provided for an input tax on the presumptive cost of intermediation to be applied against financial intermediation service fees, the same was not included in RR 12-2003, the final version of the regulations.

The draft regulations defined the presumptive cost as the interest expense presumed to have been incurred on funds lent and/or invested by the financial institution for purposes of rendering financial intermediation services and investing funds in securities, commercial papers and other instruments, which is equal to 50 percent of interest income received.

The deletion of the said provision in RR 12-2003 was deemed appropriate in the absence of a legal basis or provision of law that authorizes such credit.

Note that Section 111(B) of the Tax Code only allows presumptive input tax credits to two industries, namely: (1) firms engaged in the processing of sardines, mackerel and milk, and in manufacturing refined sugar and cooking oil based on their purchases of primary agricultural products used as inputs to their production; and, (2) public work contractors with respect to their government contracts.

Tracking opportunities . . .

From page B2-1

Among these are functional foods or nutraceuticals that have disease-preventing ingredients and benefits as part of their nutritional value and brand promise.

Functional foods or nutraceuticals include medicinal teas, cereals, ready-to-drink functional beverages, dietary supplements, fresh juices, soy products, dairy alternatives, pasta, popcorn, oil, margarine and butter spreads, etc. with ingredients like antioxidants, beta-carotene, soluble fiber, oat fiber, garlic, ginger, green tea extract, lutein, lycopene, etc. Functional brands are positioned to prevent specific health problems like diabetes, hypertension, osteoporosis, cancer, heart disease; etc. An example from Quaker Oats Co. is its brand of Mother's Toasted wheat germ that helps promote a healthy heart. Another is Kellogg's Nutri-gain brand certified by the American Heart Association to meet the food criteria for saturated fat and cholesterol.

Consumer need for health and wellness will no doubt lead to the proliferation of community gyms, spas, nutritional counselors or food coaches as well as anti-aging products like anti-wrinkle creams and preventive hair loss products.

Male vanity

Driven by the need to cling to their youthful past, baby boomer men, those born between 1946-1964, may actually be a good market for an extensive offering of relaxation and grooming treatments and services including cosmetics and male spa services. One of the brands that have made a leap into this relatively new segment is Clinique for men. Another is Hard Candy Co. of Beverly Hills California whose line of nail color for men are hot sellers.

Affordable indulgence

Consumers are always on the lookout for products and services that provide them a much-needed emotional lift. Related to this, economic diversity will always find mutual ground in occasional, affordable splurges. Aromatherapy, foot spa, hair relaxation, rich-tasting French ice cream and sorbet, Starbucks coffee, etc. may be regular indulgences for the wealthy but the less-privileged are not exempt from a once-in-while indulgence.

Beauty, a passport for individualism

More than a corrective procedure, cosmetic surgery is now a personal statement toward a more comfortable self and appearance. Consumers are wearing the results of cosmetic and maxillofacial surgeries like a badge—from tattoos, tummy tucks, breast lift and enlargement procedures, jaw surgeries, etc.

New form of women connectivity

Women are highly social. They naturally gravitate to groups. It is no wonder that Avon and Tupperware successfully built their brands via the women networking hub. Women connectivity has moved from yesterday's party talk to more meaningful dialogues that promote health and wellness, balanced family and work life and other life skills. An example is Rustan's Fleur Essence brand's occasional afternoon tea wellness seminars on aromatherapy that draws quite a crowd of women.

Real people, real situations sell wares

Undeniable, the Philippine market is enamored by celebrity endorsers. Yet, there is growing receptiveness to advertising that depicts real people, real situations. Who is to forget the McDonald's Lolo advertising? Who can deny being captivated by Surf's Wais Lumen character or the more recent Selecta ice cream commercial that makes a humorous pun of real-life disparity between the lifestyles of the rich and the not so wealthy?

Even a recent Yankelovitch global survey shows that celebrities scored a low 8 percent on trust, far below the 65 percent who trust friends and 27 percent who trust experts.

Rise of knowledge workers

Today, businesses realize that information technology is a mere tool to an end—the quest for knowledge and insights to drive a brand's success. Knowledge will drive today's economy rooted in globalization.

Companies must view employees as knowledge workers valued for their skill and contribution in sifting through a mass of data provided by today's technology. This requires organizations to provide their employees learning opportunities to enhance their work and life skills to be able to compete globally. Access to Internet technology and in-house functional and life skills seminars keep up employees' creative juices flowing and suit the temperament and nature of today's work pressure and hard-pressed time.

Another set of knowledge workers is the group of special-skilled coaches, also called business consultants. They are academically proficient with grounded experience in a specific functional skill. Beware the business consultant whose lifetime work and functional expertise is finance yet poses as a marketing coach or consultant and vice versa.

Trends emerge out of consumer behavior. Over time, this behavior becomes universal across a specific consumer market. The marketer's challenge is to detect the opportunity provided by the trend and study its application to a specific market.

(The author is a professor of marketing and brand management at the De La Salle Graduate School of Business with email address at kdeasis@skyinet.net.)

Looking good: Men and beauty care

CHICAGO—Real men don't exfoliate. But increasingly they scrub, condition, moisturize and otherwise use products that traditionally had been marketed to women, making the US male grooming market one of the fastest growing sectors in the consumer products arena, analysts said.

Products like shower gels from Procter & Gamble Co. and Colgate-Palmolive Co. to facial scrubs from Nivea and Johnson & Johnson's Neutrogena and even men's hair coloring are making inroads on the shelves at mass market retailers like Target and Wal-Mart.

"Guys are now coming to find something that women knew years ago, that you'd better protect your skin," William Steele, consumer products analyst at Banc of America Securities, said.

Aging baby boomers, obsessed with looking young and fit, are the target for manufacturers.

"They want to look good and they'll spend to do it," David Shanker, division president of client services at Information Resources Inc., a consumer products market research firm, said.

The US market for men's grooming products is estimated at $5.3 billion a year and is growing at twice the rate of the women's grooming market, Chris Heiert, Old Spice personal cleansing brand manager at Cincinnati-based P&G, said.

That is still a fraction of the $95 billion global women's beauty care industry, adding to the sense that there is more room to grow the U.S. men's market. New products bearing the Adidas name, as well as Old Spice preshave and after-shave products sold under license by Universal Group are hitting the shelves.

LOOKING/ B2-3

For low costs, more romance, say I do in Baguio

From page B2-1

Even First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo described Baguio as the city where he fell in love with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But apart from the Baguio wedding of actors Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzalez in May 2001, the city offered few incentives to draw an actual bridal market, officials of the local civil registry say.

The city has documented a yearly average of 1,707 weddings since 1993. Civil registry statistics posted the highest rate yet of 1,786 weddings in 2002.

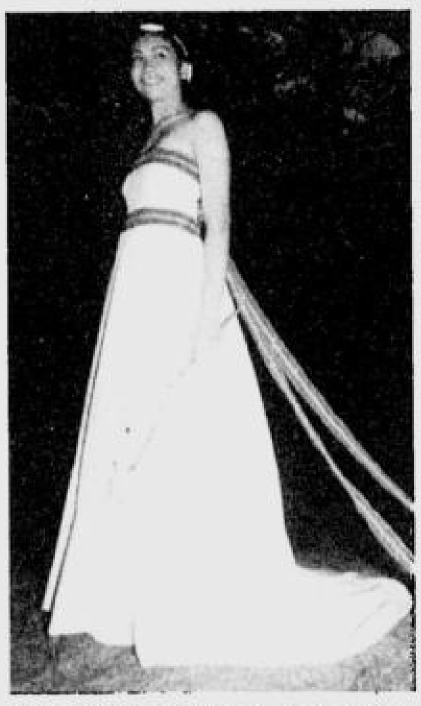
But for the local industries that benefit from weddings, these have offered little returns.

Rey Mandapat, a veteran wedding photographer, says professional portrait artists normally work with 22 to 24 weddings at a given year, and usually during the Christmas holidays.

"Baguio has 10 professional wedding photographers, with (top Baguio portrait artists) Ric Maniquis and Mark Go raking in high-end jobs for P35,000 to P50,000. Photographers like myself, or Gerry Morales, take in middle-income clients for as much as P12,000 and as low as P8,000," Mandapat says.

"This makes the wedding photography trade in Baguio only a P1.2-million industry, for a P100,000 business investment. It takes longer to recoup our capital. What's worse for us is we rarely practice our craft. Contemporary weddings copy those featured in magazines, so they ask for textbook photographs.

"We can do what Manila photographers create but we need that sort of market to be creative. Did you know (contemporary Cordillera) weddings are so shy we rarely photograph Igorot couples kissing?"


DESGIGNER Cynthia Tabora-Tuazon combine Bontoc or Ibaloi fabrics and icons with saffron and silk.

Documents showed that only 12 percent of the average 1,707 marriages recorded in the last 10 years involved out-of-towners. But the trend is rising.

"Since December (2002) and toward early April this year, the Camp John Hay Manor had hosted weddings every weekend for couples from out of town. The Manor offers a guest list of 100 people ... you can spend up to P250,000. That's a package already," Maranan says.

Tuazon, whose brother Nicholas Tabora chairs the Baguio Tourism Council, says the brisk marketing of Baguio to tourists had opened up its peripheral industries to Manila consumers.

Hotels, which act as interim wedding coordinators themselves, have been reaping the benefits of this phenomenon.

Gillian Cortes, vice president for communications of the Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevCo), says the publicity for the annual Baguio Flower Festival had reinforced the growth of Benguet's cutflower market.

Flower producers like the King Louis Farms, as well as orchid growers from La Trinidad, Benguet, contribute to a P20-million industry that now supplies Metro Manila parties with tulips, stargazers, roses and orchids.

"These days, Filipino women save for their weddings. Unlike before, when women married early—right after graduation, they got married—women today spend more time planning for their weddings, which means they (anticipate) the cost of a lavish wedding," Maranan says.

Maranan and Tuazon are also selling homegrown talents to prospecting Manila couples. Tuazon guarantees potential clients that Baguio and the neighboring regions can match the amenities a traditional Manila wedding planner can offer.

She says Baguio-based designers have come up with cheaper and even more luxurious bridal designs that would fit a typical Filipino wedding budget.

Designers Ryan Rufino and Edsel Policarpio say a P40,000 package already includes a hand-painted gown for the bride as well as 12 outfits for her entourage.

Entrepreneur Kathy Carandang said local bakers now craft strawberry flavored wedding cakes, as Baguio bakeries try to use Baguio icons for their wedding pastries.

Like all wedding affairs, the planning will always suit a couple's budget, Maranan says.

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Marketing impact of your cell phone (The new personal, one-to-one, mass media)

MARKETING RX

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

LAST week, Ardy shared with you how to take advantage of text marketing for your Suki Marketing Strategies for your small business. We thank you for comments and questions that were sent via text and e-mail. Now, I'd like to share with you the marketing implications of the cell phone for the advertising sukis of the mass media.

It's well known that the communication media landscape has dramatically changed. We have all along thought and assumed that the only way to reach the mass market quickly, like in a day or two, is through the mass media—TV, radio, and the broadsheets. We knew that personal media like the sales reps and telemarketers has limited reach and takes time.

We never thought—although we dreamt—that the day will come when we would have an advertising media that would have both the intimate touch of personal, one-to-one media and the speedy and extensive reach of mass media.

The arrival of the mobile phone and its killer application, SMS, all of a sudden made that dream a reality. In fact, the cell phone exceeded our expectations as a personal media. Unexpectedly, it also quickly took on the character of a mass media.

It's getting personal: Husband prefers cell phone to wife

First, how is the cell phone a very personal media? Listen to how a Class D wife described to us the bond between her husband and his cell phone in a recent survey I did of urban cell phone owners and users:

"Yan ngang asawa ko pag gising niya sa umaga, ang unang hawak cell phone niya. Sa gabi, ganun din. Ang huling hawak bago matulog, cell phone. Buti pa nga yang cell phone lagi niyang hawak. Ako di na nga niya hinahawakan."

(When my husband wakes up in the morning, the first thing he holds on to is his cell phone. At night, it's the same thing. The last thing he holds on to before sleeping is his cell phone. Ah, I envy his cell phone—my husband is always holding it. Me? He hardly holds me anymore!")

Is there a media around that has ever attained that depth and level of intimate relationship with its audience? Is there any media that is with the cell phone owning consumer (in his hand, pocket or belt) 24 hours a day, seven days of the week and is interactive?

In the 1970's, William Wells, a University of Chicago marketing professor and research director then at Leo Burnett, branded this "ideal" media as a "consumer moment," "consumer contact point" capturing media. Moy Dy-Liaco, corporate communication vice president at Nestlé Philippines, refers to such a media as the "affinity group" media. The three labels of "consumer moment," "contact point" and "affinity" convey in more meaningful terms that personal character in this new media. (Today, of course, Nestlé uses SMS for its direct marketing strategies.) To find out more about the applications of SMS to consumer marketing, attend the upcoming Direct Marketing Forum- www.dmforum.net.

Next, how can we say that the mobile phone is a truly mass media?

If we are to believe the telcos, there are about 19 million cell phone users in the Philippines (about 10 million Smart users and 9 million Globe users), 80 percent to 90 percent are prepaid cell card, budget users. Only 10 percent to 20 percent—or 1.9 million to 3.8 million—are postpaid subscribers belonging to the upper and middle class. This means that up to 17.1 million cell phone users are *tingi* budget buyers of text and call services. This is the Class C and Class D, E *masa* market.

According to my 2001 nationwide "Çonsumer Coping Survey," my estimate of the Metro Manila urban DE market who owns cell phones is at 2.5 million. Close to 400,000 of these cell phones are owned by the E market or the poorest of the poor! (Note that my survey questionnaire asked them if they "owned" a cell phone rather than "bought" a cell phone. The figures were much lower when we asked the Class D, E if they had "bought" a cell phone).

Hi-tech marketing for lowland farmers: Using SMS to order fertilizer

In my 2001 survey of farmers in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, farmers were found to own a "household" cell phone. Meaning, the phone is placed at home and often it's the son or daughter who texts for their farmer father when the latter wants, for example, to place an order to a fertilizer or pesticide store. According to the data from this survey, Luzon farmers' cell phone ownership is near the median ratio of 44 percent with 25 percent "planning to own" in 2002. The pair of proportions for Visayas is 27 percent and nine percent, and for Mindanao, 27 percent and three percent.

So even for the rural just represented by farmers, it's another mass market audience base for advertisers and advertising media agencies.

With MMS (multimedia messaging dervice) now here, the telcos like Smart, Globe and Sun (if they survive) have the potential to be the next media giants like GMA 7 and ABS-CBN. Now the telcos just have to figure out how to deal with the ad agencies who'll want a piece of the action.

(E-mail feedback to dmforum@edsamail.com.ph)

Bid those drop boxes, adieu, here comes 'raffle texting'

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MARKETING STRATEGY

CONSIDER for a moment the logistics behind the usual raffle promotions of big manufacturing companies.

First, these companies have to produce specially marked packages—sachets, bottle caps, foil wrappers and plastic cases. Then these firms have to spend for the drop boxes to be set up in supermarkets and groceries all over the Philippines, not to mention the cost of transporting these boxes to the most remote locations.

Second, consumers who want to join have to keep these packages then they have to set aside time, effort and the money to send these through mail or drop boxes.

Finally, consumers and the manufacturing or consumer companies have to wait for weeks before they know the winners, and only after TV hosts pick out the lucky names out from hundreds upon hundreds of these specially marked packages mixed in a giant *tambiolo*.

Arthur Policarpio, who used to work for perennial raffle promoter Procter and Gamble, said to himself that there must be a more cost-efficient way for consumers and manufacturing firms to conduct a raffle promotion.

Policarpio has been toying around with the idea since he was in P&G but it was not until he got together with childhood friend Jeremy Obial, who was into information technology, and Roy Barin, who used to supply marketing tools to P&G, that they came up with the idea of to revolutionizing the raffle industry by using the immensely popular short messaging system.

"We were actually discussing a different concept in August last year and somehow the discussion went into raffles. We asked ourselves how could we make raffles more efficient. We were just tossing ideas around and wrote them on a placemat in T.G.I. Friday's, a restaurant, and after four hours we had our first concept test," Policarpio says.

Obial says the concept was to do away with the entire process of sending entries through the mail or drop boxes and instead use the SMS or text messaging system to send raffle entries.

These raffle entries would be housed in a central database and winners will be chosen electronically every week. This system does away with the long wait because under their concept, winners would be named every week.

"Nobody has done raffles through SMS before but it is an ideal medium because everybody knows the technology," Obial says.

The three colleagues, thus, put up Buy N' Text Corp. in September last year, a mobile marketing company that specializes in using mobile phones for marketing.

Raffles are the first marketing gimmick that the company went into, but there are plans to soon tap other technologies such as multimedia messaging, personal digital assistants and mobile commerce.

Policarpio says it was quite easy to get the big manufacturing companies to try out BNT's system because of the promise to cut costs. In just a few months, companies such as Universal Robina Corp., Purefoods Corp. and P & G joined the raffle promotion through SMS technology.

Under BNT's system, consumers only have to register once, then they key in the raffle numbers found on the products of participating companies and they automatically get a raffle entry.

The more products they buy, the more chances of winning for just P2.50 per text message.

Policarpio says the system is easier on the consumer because they can submit their entries from the convenience of their homes without having to look for drop boxes and they continue sending their entries up to 2 in the morning.

They also have a wide array of products to choose from. Obial says there are more than 40 brands in BNT's network and more are coming in, especially since the list of millionaires is getting longer. BNT names three millionaires a week.

BUY N TEXT Corp. wants to revolutionize the raffle industry.

Participating firms include Caffe Flores Gourmet Coffee, David's Salon, Golden Oats Corp., Heinz-UFC, Kimberly-Clark Phils., P & G, Purefoods Flour, Purefoods-Hormel, Southeast Asia Food Inc. and Queen's.

Policarpio believes that more companies will join the SMS raffle program if only for the promise of cost reduction.

Obial adds that the system has become so successful that there are plans to apply the same concept in other markets in Asia, which are just coming to terms with the opportunities in mobile commerce.

"We have big dreams for our company. Our goal is to become a regional player and we can compete in information technology. We feel that going into knowledge-based business is where Filipinos can compete regionally," Policarpio says.

Looking good...

From page B2-2

Some analysts also expect Gillette Co. to bring out new facial-care products later this year to try to defend its turf. Gillette declined to comment on new product plans.

Marketing these products has presented a challenge, as companies need to convince men to overcome gender stereotypes, marketers and consultants said.

"Men are more loyal (consumers), but they also don't want their products to be considered in any way shape or form feminine. That's the kiss of death," Ken Harris, a partner at consulting firm Cannondale Associates said. "Women want to exfoliate ... Men scrub. They don't exfoliate." Nivea, a unit of Germany's Beiersdorf AG , in fact, had to change the name of its men's exfoliating face scrub to "Deep Cleaning Face Scrub" to attract male consumers, Joseph Venezia, marketing manager for Nivea for Men, said.

Reuters

Drug firm mixes ...

From page B2-4

our Country—graces the back of the office which adjoins a residential area.

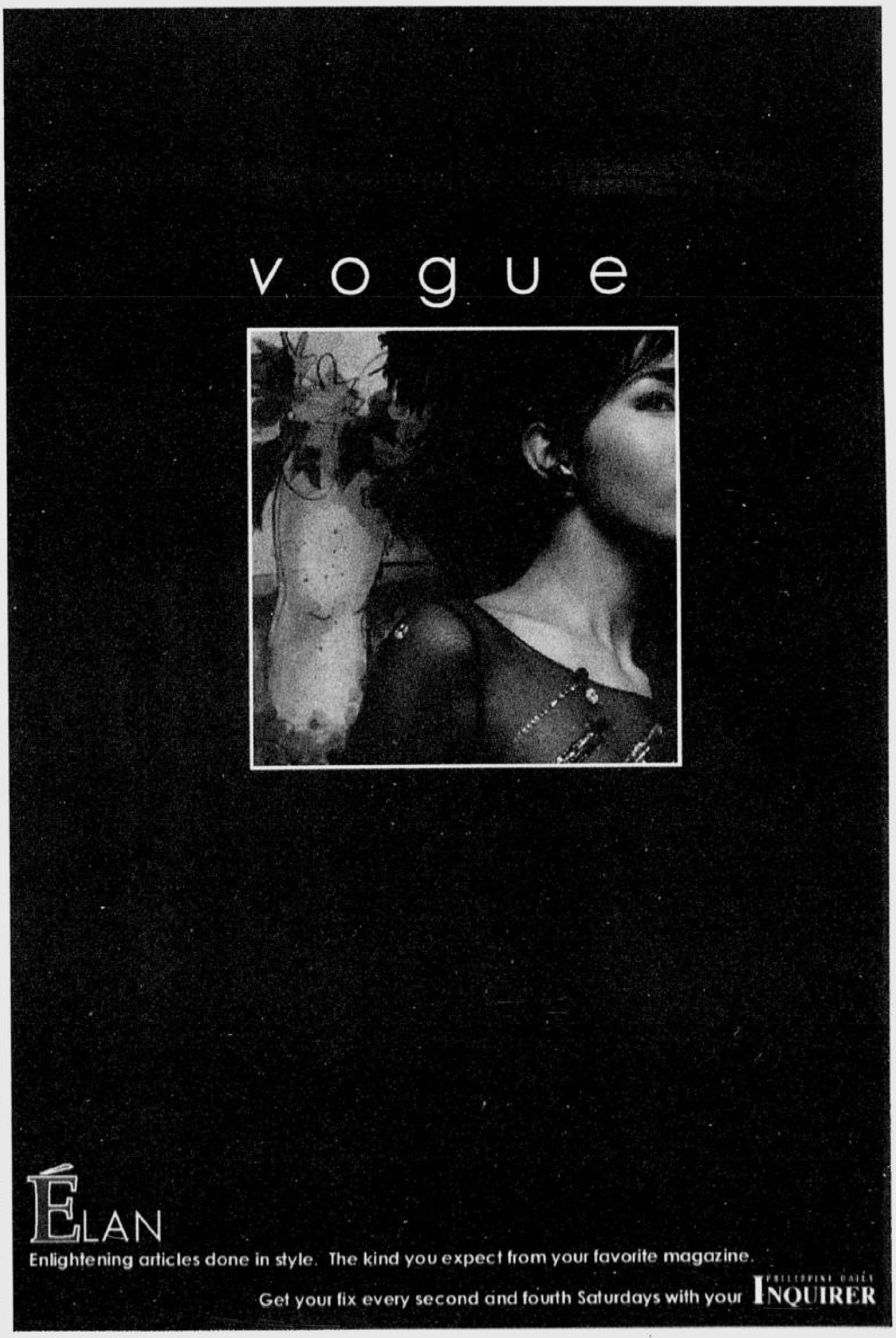
In keeping with its nationalistic ideals, Natrapharm starts work on Mondays with a flag ceremony and singing of the National Anthem. A similar ritual is followed in employee gatherings and other social activities.

The company believes the road to progress and development in our country is patriotism. Through slogans and reinforcing activities, it urges its employees to have the welfare of the country and that of the Filipino people in mind whenever they go about their daily tasks.

During Independence Day celebrations, the company's front yard proudly displays its allegiance to the Philippine flag. Last year, it put up a flag that almost covered the entire frontage of its building. It was very visible even from a distance. This year, nine huge red, white and blue banners are fluttering beside the Ang Inang Bayan statue.

The company celebrates June 12 one week ahead to coincide with the regular monthly meeting of the sales personnel who gather at the main office from different parts of the country.

As in previous freedom day celebrations, the festivities last June 6 started with Runes's inspirational talk on the importance of loving our country. After the completion of official business, the employees were treated to (what else?) Filipino food and traditional Filipino parlor games, including sipa.



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BUSINESS Friday

STATUE of Inang Bayan guards the entrance of the building.

Kartilla ng Katipunan
La Liga Filipina
ARCH of Patriots features 10 national heroes.

FACADE of the building facing the South Luzon Expressway.

Drug firm mixes a dose of patriotism in business

By Raul J. Palabrica

WHAT'S the statue of a woman wearing the traditional Filipina dress and looking at the horizon, with one hand holding a staff bearing the Philippine flag and the other in a welcome pose, doing in a noisy and crowded street in Parañaque City?

The 14-foot bronze-colored sculpture, which stands on a six-foot black marble base, never fails to attract the attention of pedestrians and motorists, who pass the road that runs parallel to the South Luzon Expressway near the Bicutan toll exit. More so at night when powerful light bulbs make it stick out in the dark.

Named Ang Inang Bayan, the statue stands near the entrance to the Patriot's Building of the Natrapharm Group of Companies at West Service Road, Parañaque City. The group is composed of Natrapharm Inc. and Patriot Pharmaceuticals Corp. The firms are engaged in the marketing and distribution of its own products through licensing agreements from here and abroad.

The tablet at the statue's base reads: Panalangin. *Ang tangi naming panalangin sa Poong Maykapal na ang bawat Filipino ay pamalagiang magpamalas at magpadama ng kanilang tunay na pagmamahal sa ating Inang Bayan*. (Prayer. It is our fervent prayer to God that every Filipino will show and share with others true love for our country.)

Made of fiberglass, the statue was designed by Noel Escultura of the National Museum after consultations with Natrapharm President Rudi Runes. No model was used as pattern for the sculpture which took more than four months to build, from December 2002 to April this year. It will be formally inaugurated in July in the presence of the company's 215-strong workforce.

'Arch of patriots'

Earlier, in June 2001, the company built an arch at the entrance of its four-story building to honor 10 national heroes: Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio, Emilio Aguinaldo, Emilio Jacinto, Antonio Luna, Apolinario Mabini, Marcela Agoncillo. Melchora Aquino (also known as 'Tandang Sora"), Gregorio del Pilar and Gabriela Silang.

RUNES

The "Arch of Patriots," as it is called, was also designed and constructed by Escultura. The cement structure is 16 feet wide, 21 feet high and is supported on two sides by three and a half feet-thick columns.

The arch's overhang shows Rizal standing with Bonifacio to his right and Jacinto to his left. Aguinaldo is shown beside Jacinto. The Sublime Paralytic, Mabini, is seated in front of Aguinaldo. Across Mabini is Agoncillo in the act of weaving the Philippine flag.

Completing the scene are two slabs that read Kartilla ng Katipunan (referring to the document that contains Bonifacio's thoughts on Philippine independence) and La Liga Filipina (the organization founded by Rizal to mobilize the Filipino to seek meaningful changes in Spanish rule in the Philippines). Behind the heroes' busts are the bas-reliefs of Silang and del Pilar astride their horses.

The support column at the right side bears the image of Luna in a military general's uniform, while at the left is Tandang Sora who is depicted as ministering to a wounded soldier. The images of the heroes are built to life size measurements.

Runes explained that the arch was erected "as a manifestation of our devotion to the ideals of patriotism. It is our fervent hope that those who pass through it as well as the passers-by who lay eyes on it will gain inspiration to appreciate and emulate our revered patriots."

Runes says his love of country came from his father who was a prolific writer on national heroes.

'Love our country'

Complementing the message sought to be conveyed by the two structures is a large streamer bearing the words *Mahalin ang Inang Bayan* that hangs on the steel fence near the street. Another streamer of a similar size with the same message in English—Love

DRUG / B2-3

Top of the heap.

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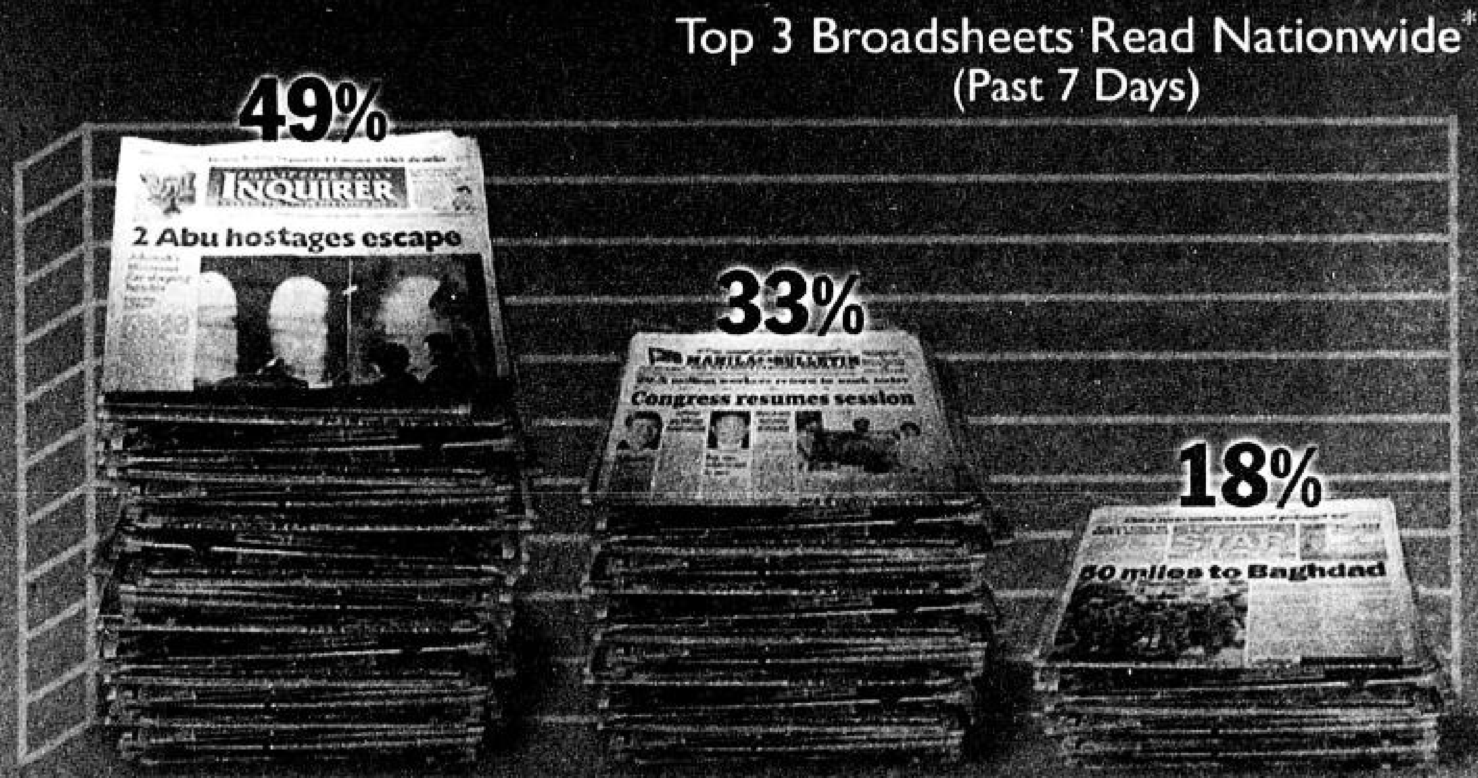

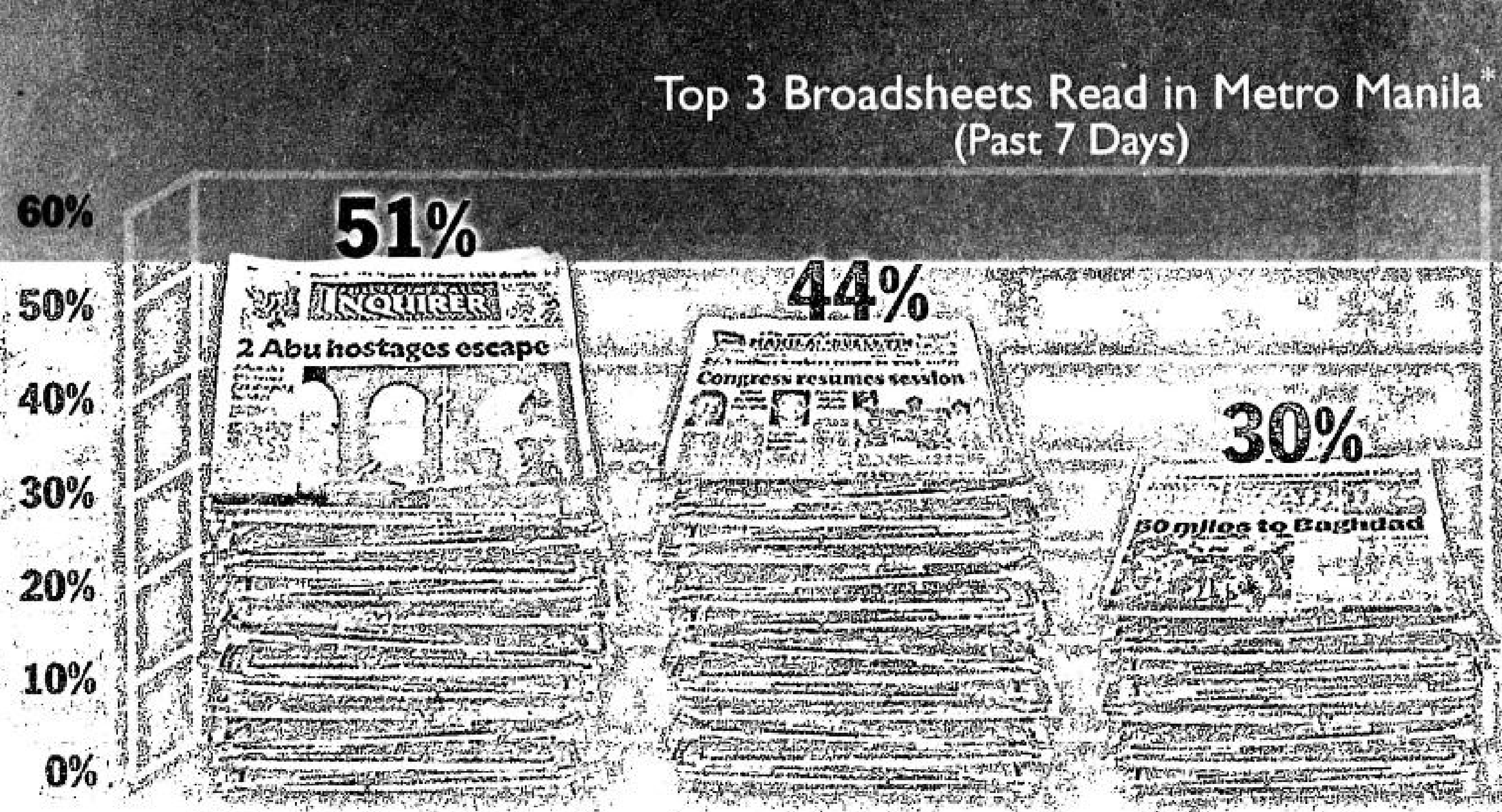

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"PANGARAP KO ang Ibigin Ka," starring Velasquez and De Leon, is directed by first-timer Louie Ignacio.

Regine-Boyet movie leads 1st day race

Aubrey Miles entry is 2nd in filmfest opening

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE romantic comedy "Pangarap Ko ang Ibigin Ka," starring Regine Velasquez and Christopher de Leon, was the box-office top-grosser when all six Manila Film

REGINE/ C2

American officials give thumbs-up to 'Balikatan' movie

/C2

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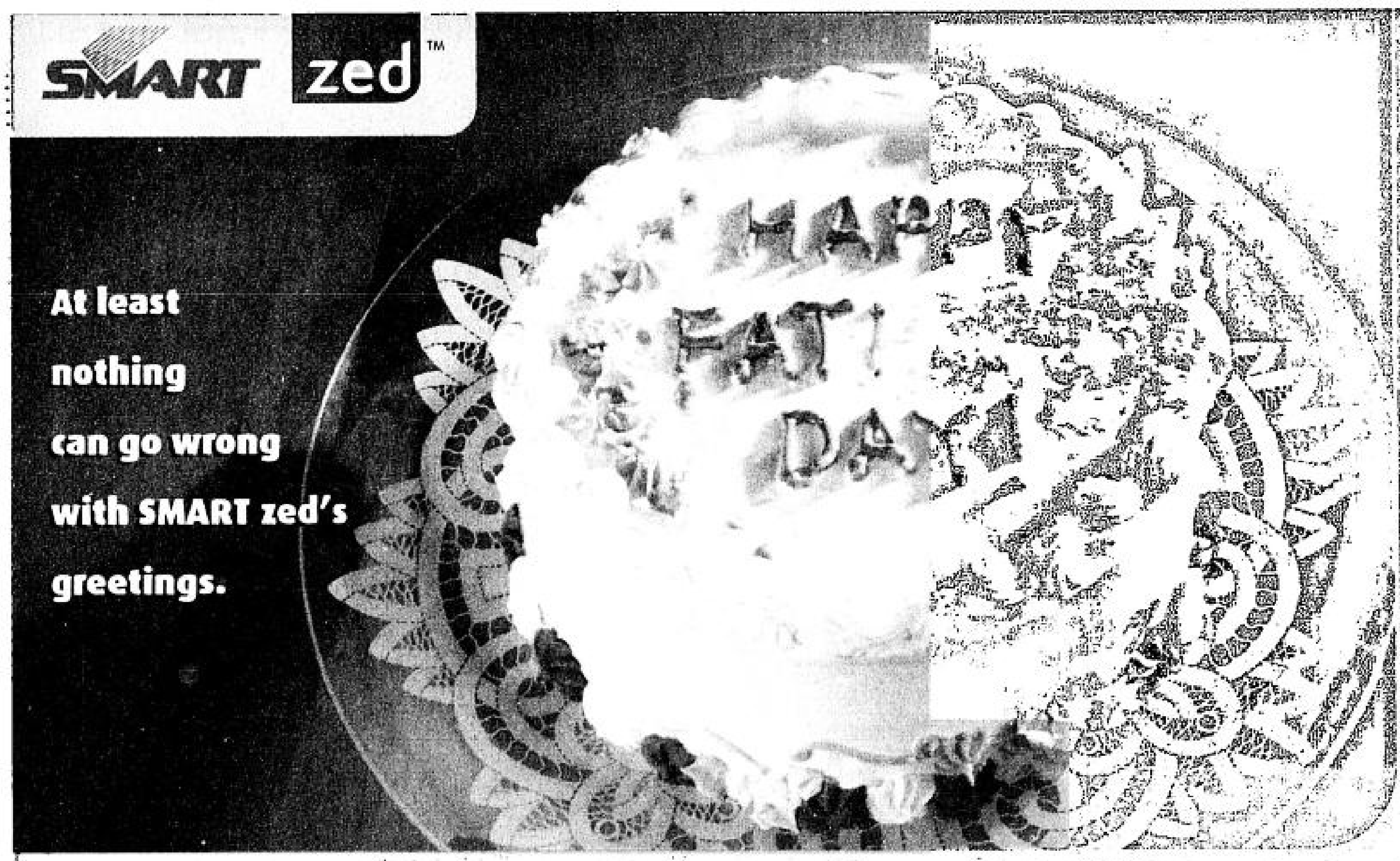
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In Da Club	50 Cents	TONE INDACLUB
Forevermore	Side A	TONE 4EVERMORE
Bakit Papa	Sex Bomb	TONE BAKITPAPA
Dilemma	Nelly	TONE DILEMMA
The Real Slim Shady	Eminem	TONE SLIMSHADY
Losing Grip	Avril Lavinge	TONE LOSING
Gossip Folks	Missy Elliot	TONE GOSSIP
LakLak	Teeth	TONE LAKLAK
I'll Do Anything	Simple Plan	TONE DOANY
Hey Ma	Cam'ron	TONE HEYMA
Laundromat	Nivea	TONE LAUNDRO
Send The Pain Below	Chevelle	TONE SENDPAIN
The Space Between	Ballard/Matthews	TONE SPACEBET
Swing Swing	All American Rejects	TONE SWING
Take A Look Around	Limp Bizkit	TONE TAKEALOOK
Tell Me	Smilez And Southstar	TONE TELL
The Red	Chevelle	TONE THERED
Us Against The World	Play	TONE USAGAINST

LOGO ANGHEL
LOGO DRAGON7
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LOGO JESUS
LOGO 4EVER
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LOGO ANGELSTAR
LOGO THORNS
LOGO GANDA
LOGO NUDEBABE
LOGO BESO
LOGO DRAGONBALL
LOGO SUNSMILE
LOGO HOTGIRL
LOGO JESUS1
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LOGO DALIJA
LOGO ANGELDA
LOGO HAPIDADA
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LOGO BALIKA
LOGO IAWEIA
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PIC CRAP
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US officials give thumbs-up to 'Balikatan' movie

By Leah Salterio

AMERICAN officials who watched the premiere showing of Cirio Santiago's "Operation Balikatan" last Tuesday didn't find anything negative about the movie, and only made a minor comment about the depiction of the kidnapping of an American senator.

Navy Capt. Dennis Williams, in charge of the public affairs office of the RP-US joint military exercises called Balikatan, assured writer-director-producer Cirio H. Santiago of Premiere Productions they would support his future movies of the same kind.

"He told me, 'Please feel free to consult us if you will make another movie related to us,'" Santiago quoted Williams as saying. "But I told him I don't want to be censored by Washington. He told me we could send the script ahead of time."

Cinematic license

Filmed with a budget of P25 million, "Operation Balikatan" revolves around the lives of soldiers in the joint RP-US military exercises. It is one of the six official entries in the ongoing Manila Film Festival, which started last Wednesday, June 11.

Santiago said Williams called his attention to how the kidnapping of a US senator by an Al-Qaida soldier in Kota Kinabalu was depicted in the movie.

"He said they secure their officers so well the kidnapping couldn't have happened," Santiago said. "I agree with him, but I also told him that I had my own cinematic license to do that. Otherwise, I don't have a story."

In one hostake-taking scene in the movie, Eddie Garcia says, "We are going to conduct this mission because this is part of our agreement with the Americans."

An official from the Office of the Press Secretary in Malacañang pointed out the Balikatan is merely a training agreement and does not cover rescue missions.

Aside from Williams, 10 officials from the US Embassy, led by spokesperson Karen Kelly, as well as other American and Filipino officials from the US-RP joint military exercises, also watched the movie.

Rescuing hostages

Underscretary Amado Valdez of the Visiting Forces Agreement (VIFA) Commission was also present. The commission, which oversees the Balikatan exercises, wanted to make sure the movie adhered to the Balikatan terms of reference.

In "Operation Balikatan," Rey Malonzo, mayor of Caloocan City, plays a bemedalled Marine captain who, together with six other men, tries to free three Americans held hostage by terrorists.

The movie also stars Eddie Garcia, Monsour del Rosario, Carlo Maceda and Archie Adamos, and American actors Christian Boeving, Nate Adams and Davee Youngblood. Patricia Javier plays Malonzo's wife.

American officials involved in the Balikatan joint military training had requested Premiere Productions for a special screening of the action-drama movie, through the Office of the Press Secretary in Malacañang.

Santiago invited the Americans to the premiere of the movie at SM Manila.

HBO version

An OPS official earlier pointed out that the American soldiers simply wanted to see if the movie's depiction of the exercises complied with the terms of reference of the Balikatan. The American soldiers had no intention of censoring the movie, the OPS official said.

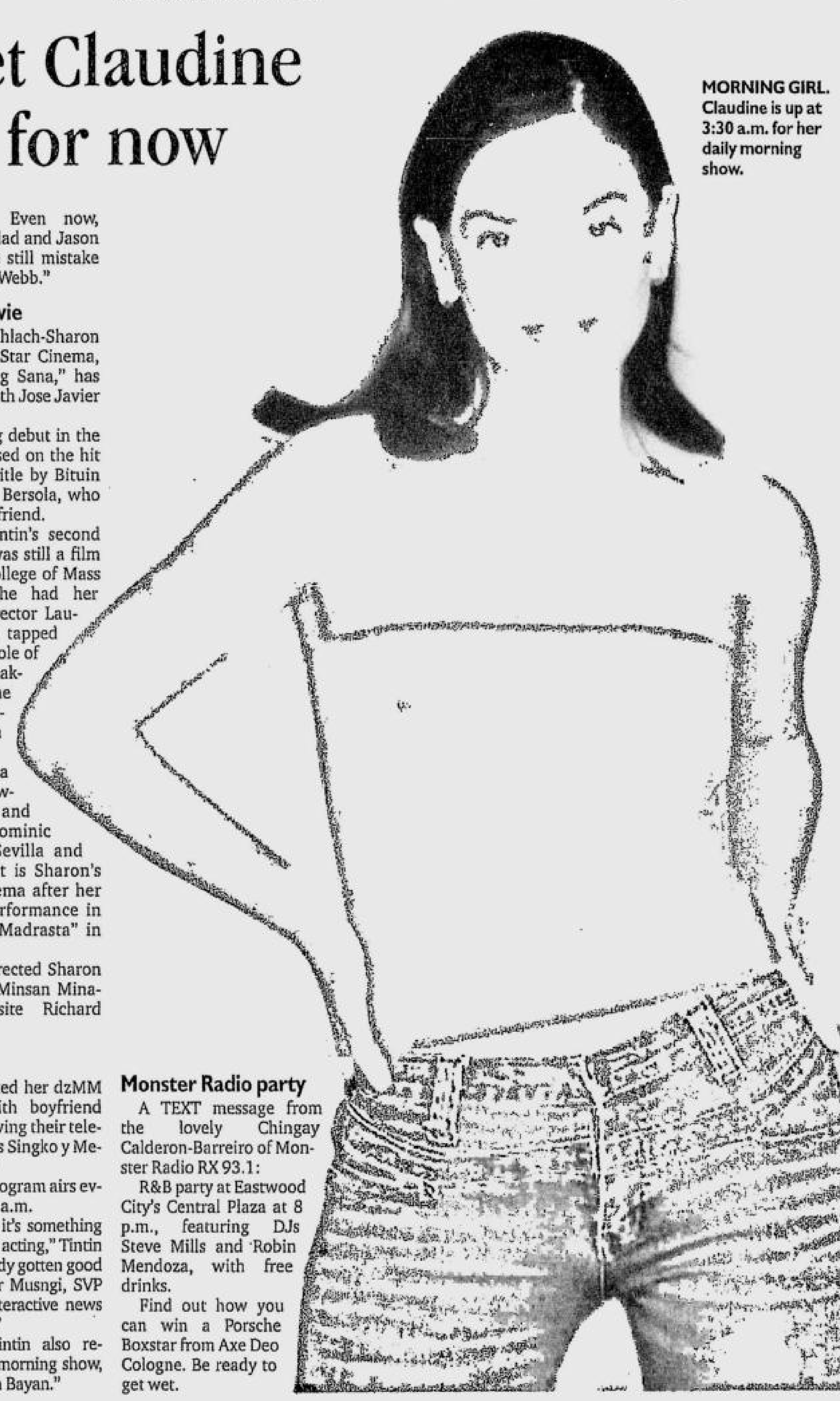
Santiago said "Operation Balikatan" will air on HBO/Cinemax with the English title, "When Eagles Strike." It will contain scenes deleted from the original print.

The five other Manila Film Festival entries–Viva Films' "Pangarap Ko ang Ibigin Ka," Jaggs Productions' "Ang Huling Birhen sa Lupa," Regal's "Sanib," RP Brothers Productions' "Alab ng Lahi" and Imus Productions' "Bertud ng Putik"–also premiered Tuesday night at SM Manila (*See related story, Page C1*).

Santiago said that as of Wednesday, "Operation Balikatan" ranked fifth in the box office earnings of the entries.

Santiago said his next movie is "Ghost Warriors," about Japanese stragglers on an island.

Wyngard Tracy won't let Claudine Trillo make movies, for now



MORNING GIRL. Claudine is up at 3:30 a.m. for her daily morning show.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

PRIOR to her TV stint as host of the ABS-CBN daily morning show, "Magandang Umaga, Bayan," Claudine Trillo's only link with show biz was being the girlfriend of Zoren Legaspi for four years.

But Claudine, 23, has made a name for herself without banking on her past or her formidable family business background. The youngest in a brood of four children of hotel and restaurant chain owners Anthony and Tita Trillo, Claudine had always wanted to be on TV. She has appeared in TV commercials, print ads and magazine covers, but her dream of being on TV did not come true until after college at De La Salle University, where she took up business management. She also took up paralegal studies at Berkeley College in New York.

Claudine's family owns the wine cellar and bar Pravda, restaurants like Cork and Magnum, and hotels in Subic.

"My parents didn't want me to join show biz because they wanted me to finish my studies first," Claudine says. "After college, they wanted me to get into business and help manage our hotels, but I decided to be in front of the cameras instead."

In 2001, after graduating from DLSU, Claudine became host of "Eksena" on E! Philippines. She also hosted other lifestyle and entertainment shows like "Planet X" and "Trend TV" on ABC 5.

During one of the events of E! Philippines, she was spotted by ABS-CBN's big boss Freddie Garcia, who was one of the judges. She was invited to join ABS-CBN and, last September, she started her hosting chores on "MUB."

Claudine's show biz inclination surprised many people, considering she doesn't have any show biz blood.

"It's in my personality to interact with people," Claudine says. "I like interviewing people and getting to know more about them."

Claudine is optimistic that her entertainment career will take a different turn with talent manager Wyngard Tracy to guide her.

Will she eventually join the movies?

"Wyngard wants me to stick to broadcasting," Claudine allows. "No acting assignments yet for me. I want to do very well in this field before I move on and try other things."

Claudine hosts the music segment, motoring and the "Sale ng Bayan," which takes her to places like Divisoria to hunt for bargains.

"When I went to Divisoria, it was so exciting because after taping, I went shopping," Claudine says. "I went home with a bagful of clothes and spent only P3,000."

Her daily morning TV stint has deprived her of a night life, she says. But after marrying Sta. Lucia cager Jason Webb last December in Subic, Claudine hardly goes out at night.

"I sleep at 10 p.m., wake up at 3:30 a.m. and drive myself to the studio for my makeup and briefing," she says.

Jason, who is 28, understands her schedule, she says.

"When I leave the house, he's still asleep and sometimes, when he gets home after a game, I'm already in bed," says Claudine. "But during the day, when I don't do field work or there are no segments to tape and he doesn't have basketball practice, we make it a point to spend time together."

Claudine thinks it's serendipitous that she's married to the son of baskbetball icon and former senator Freddie Webb, who is a spitting image of her own dad.

"Ever since I was small, I had always been curious about who Freddie Webb was," Claudine shares. "I never imagined that the real Freddie Webb would become my father-in-law. Even now, when I'm with my dad and Jason in the mall, people still mistake my dad for Senator Webb."

Aga-Sharon movie

THE AGA Muhlach-Sharon Cuneta starrer for Star Cinema, "Kung Ako na Lang Sana," has started shooting, with Jose Javier Reyes at the helm.

Making an acting debut in the movie, which is based on the hit song of the same title by Bituin Escalante, is Tintin Bersola, who plays Sharon's best friend.

It is actually Tintin's second movie. When she was still a film major at the UP College of Mass Communication, she had her practicum with director Laurice Guillen, who tapped her to play the bit role of a nurse, with no speaking lines, in "The Dolzura Cortez Story," starring Vilma Santos.

"Kung Ako na Lang Sana" is showing in September and also stars Dominic Ochoa, Jennifer Sevilla and Shintaro Valdez. It is Sharon's third for Star Cinema after her award-winning performance in Olive Lamasan's "Madrasta" in 1996.

Lamasan also directed Sharon in Star Cinema's "Minsan Minahal Kita," opposite Richard Gomez, in 2000.

Back on radio

TINTIN has started her dzMM radio program with boyfriend Julius Babao, following their television stints on "Alas Singko y Medya" and "Talk TV."

The new radio program airs every Saturday, 6 to 8 a.m.

"It's fun because it's something new for me, just like acting," Tintin said. "We have already gotten good feedback from Peter Musngi, SVP for radio. It's an interactive news magazine program."

Last Monday, Tintin also returned to the daily morning show, "Magandang Umaga Bayan."

Monster Radio party

A TEXT message from the lovely Chingay Calderon-Barreiro of Monster Radio RX 93.1:

R&B party at Eastwood City's Central Plaza at 8 p.m., featuring DJs Steve Mills and Robin Mendoza, with free drinks.

Find out how you can win a Porsche Boxstar from Axe Deo Cologne. Be ready to get wet.

Star value regains its drawing power

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SOMETIME ago, when even big-budgeted local films were flopping all over the place, movie people started to believe that star value no longer worked its usual magic at the box office.

This was a major albeit belated discovery, and radically changed the way that producers bankrolled films.

In more prosperous times, all that a producer needed to make money was to come up with good star value for his new projects. Big stars were expensive, but producers paid up because the presence of major stellar draws was virtually their surefire ticket to the bank.

In the past few years, however, as audiences got tired of local formula films and favored Hollywood blockbusters instead, star value failed to entice viewers into theaters. This was especially true for big action films, whose macho superstars appeared to have lost their clout at the box office, and ended up jobless or appeared in action-comedy series on television.

This past year, however, star value appears to have regained its drawing power, both on TV and in the movies (with some sobering exceptions of course).

For instance, the new Robin Padilla-Judy Ann Santos action-comedy-drama soap on Channel 2 is no great shakes as entertainment, but its big star value is enabling it to garner top ratings, and thus demolish the competition.

In the movies, Judy Ann's last starrer also clicked with viewers, and the expectation is that Robin's new film, "Alab ng Lahi," will similarly do well at the box office during the Manila Film Festival.

Other stars are also being dusted off for new projects, after months or even years on the shelf, so things are looking up.

Even better, some lessons have been learned in the interim. Having experienced failure and rejection, big stars are no longer as smug about their box-office clout as they used to be. Some of them have even lowered their talent fees, and no longer make the same onerous demands for extra perks that they used to insist on.

In addition, they've also been chastened by the big hits that relatively lesser lights like Ai Ai delas Alas have been chalking up, at a fraction of the steep talent fees that top film stars rate.

All of these developments, if properly directed towards productive ends, could help local TV-movie productions get their act together starting this year. Although star value has proven itself to be an asset again, the goal is for star fees not to take up most of a production's budget, as they used to. This left little money for production staffers and for good production values, thus leading to the making of quickies and cheapies, despite all that expensive star value.

If the new, more realistic production attitude can be sustained, the objective would be for stellar fees to take up no more than 30 or 40 percent of a film's budget, so producers can boost other film workers' fees and spend more money to improve their new projects' technical elements.

Let's hope that our film people have indeed learned their lessons well. Otherwise, it'll just be a matter of time before stars lose their value once again.

Barbie's Cradle

Cuts from Barbie's Cradle's latest album, "Playing in the Fields," will be performed by the band at SM Supermalls in the next two months.

Schedule: June 13, SM Southmall. June 18, SM Manila. June 20, SM North Edsa. June 28, SM Pamapnga, July 4, SM Bacoor. July 12, SM Megamall. July 17, SM Fairview. July 19, SM Cebu.

On July 10, Barbie's Cradle will host an album launch party.

Regine-Boyet movie...

From page C1

Festival entries opened in Manila theaters last Wednesday.

"Pangarap Ko ang Ibigin Ka" is the first movie to be directed by Louie Ignacio, a television director. Regine plays a woman who becomes obsessed with a widower (Christopher).

Celso Ad. Castillo's "Sanib," starring sexy actress Aubrey Miles, Raymond Bagatsing and Carlo Muñoz, came in second, according to a member of the filmfest committee.

After starring in sexy movies like "Prosti" and "Xerex," Miles makes a complete turnaround and plays a young bride possessed by the spirit of a long-dead half-sister who had vowed to torment her.

Third was Augusto Salvador's action-fantasy "Bertud ng Putik," starring Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. It is a follow-up to Revilla's top-grossing entry "Agimar" in the Metro Manila Film Festival last December.

Joel Lamangan's "Huling Birhen sa Lupa," starring Maui Taylor, Ara Mina and Jay Manalo, was fourth.

Taylor plays a mentally disabled girl who is raped but apparently remains a virgin. In "Huling Birhen," director Lamangan pays tribute to one of his mentors, the late Ishmael Bernal, who created "Himala," starring Nora Aunor, in the early '80s.

"Alab ng Lahi," directed by Ricardo "Bebong" Osorio, placed fifth in the ranking. The movie, which stars Robin Padilla, Eddie Garcia and Jacky Woo, is about the relations between the Japanese and Filipinos during and after World War II.

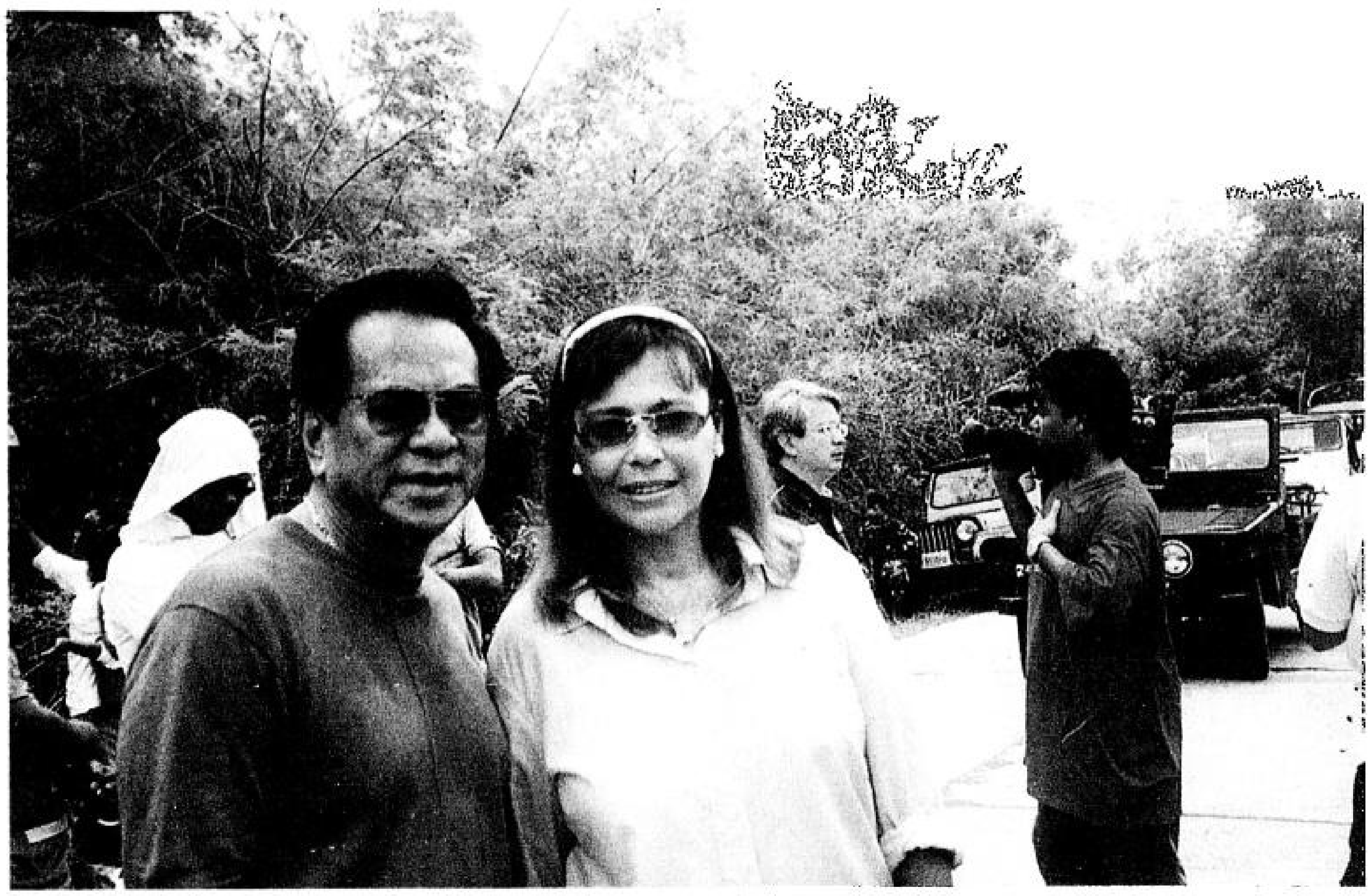
"Alab" is the only entry endorsed by the Department of Education.

Placing last in the opening day box-office race is Cirio Santiago's "Operation Balikatan," starring Rey Malonzo, Eddie Garcia again, Monsour del Rosario and Patricia Javier.

Malonzo plays a Marine captain who tries to free three Americans held hostage by terrorists.

The film festival will run until June 25. It is also part of the "Araw ng Maynila" celebration on June 24.

The festival awards night will be on June 19 at the Aliw Theater in the Star City complex.



THE REAL Chavit Singson and Donna Villa, producer of the Chavit movie, take time out from the shoot.

The day Chavit Singson confronted Crisologo again

By Norma Japitana
Contributor

THE CHAVIT Singson movie finally started filming last weekend in Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

You can go to Vigan by plane or by driving. Since there was a typhoon, we decided to drive. It was an arduous 10-hour drive despite the good roads. But Vigan is beautiful and serene, worthy of that long drive anytime.

We were billeted at the Vigan home of Chavit, in a big room like in a five-star hotel. There must be around 12 rooms in that house.

The former governor was in Korea with President Macapagal-Arroyo, but he was coming in that evening in his own plane.

Director Carlo Caparas and his producer wife, Donna Villa, were already location-hunting.

Ex-Erap Room

Already billeted in the Chavit home were the main actors: Eddie Garcia, Cesar Montano, Pinky de Leon, Tirso Cruz III, Marita Zobel, Tommy Abuel and Rommel Montano.

Cesar was billeted in the GMA Room, known as the Erap Room during former President Estrada's time. Dinner was served in the main house which you can access by climbing a stone path to behold the three-story house with a swimming pool on top. Once on top of the path, you can see the Cordillera mountains on the left and the ocean on the right.

Director Carlo and Eddie Garcia were discussing how the Floro Crisologo character would be played. Eddie thinks there is more to the character of Crisologo than his tough guy stance.

First shooting day

"He must have been a gentleman of the old school in some ways and yet tough as dictated by his position and the times," said Eddie.

How they finally decided to do his character, you will see in the movie.

The first shooting day of "Chavit of Ilocos" was in San Vicente, along a main road about 21 kilometers out of Vigan. It was the confrontation scene of Cesar as Chavit and Eddie as Congressman Crisologo. The scene was a big one with about 300 extras on the set.

Eddie and Cesar were both made up for that era. Cesar has had to grow his hair while Eddie has the same hair and glasses that Congressman Crisologo used to wear. They met on the road, with the military and police escorts of Crisologo surrounding the two men.

Heat and rain

It was a hot day that Saturday. "Singson" and "Crisologo" were now in dramatic confrontation.

The real Chavit Singson was now on the set, sitting beside Donna Villa who was in her Escada sandals. Chavit was going over the script, giving his comments on some portions.

Then it rained and the parched street of San Vicente was steaming. We ran for cover while praying for the rain to stop. After an hour the sun came up and shooting resumed.

Then it was a good take and there was relief and applause all around.

The second set was in an old house owned by Bonito Singson, brother of Chavit. This was a party scene, a celebration after Chavit won an election.

Pip's mommy

Pinky de Leon, still svelte and beautiful after all these years, was being made up according to that era She plays the role of Carmeling Crisologo, wife of Floro and mother of Bingbong. Bingbong is Tirso Cruz III, who kept calling Pinky "mommy."

"I will never live this down," said Pinky. "Imagine calling me that when we are of the same age!"

With her were Marita Zobel and Tommy Abuel who play the parents of Chavit Singson. Dina Bonnevie was not on the set yet.

The first-day shoot was covered by media people who drove all the way to Vigan. For a first day shoot, they were not disappointed.

FACE-OFF takes place between Singson (back to camera) and the reel Chavit, played by Cesar Montano made up to look like him.

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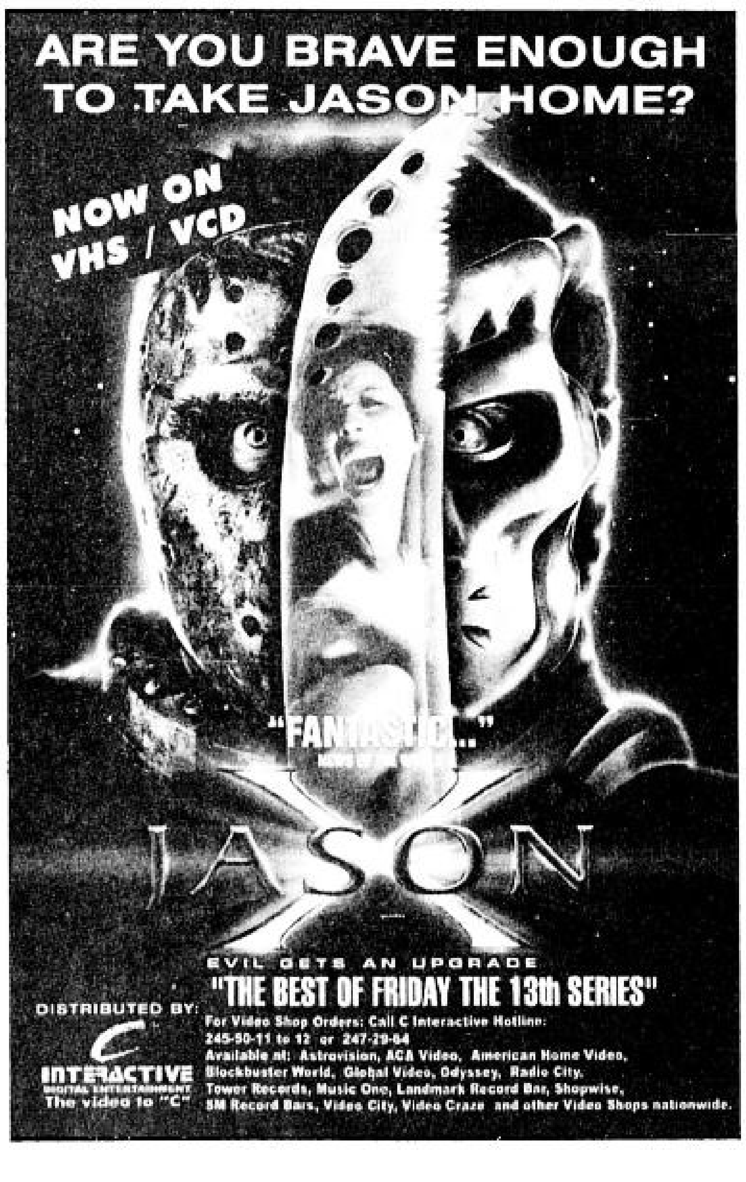

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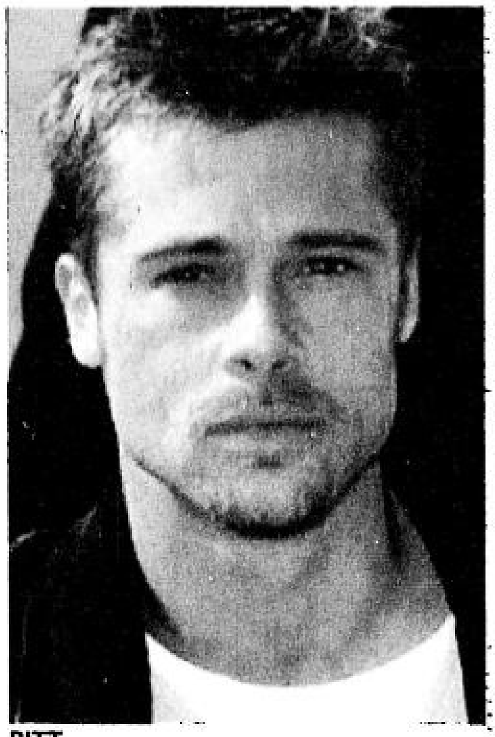
EXCLUSIVE

Jennifer Aniston on Brad, God and sleeping with 'Almighty'


PITT

By Janet Susan R. Nepales
Contributor

LOS ANGELES—Jennifer Aniston seems to have almost everything that a woman longs for: the looks, the career, THE man and now even a mega hit movie with superstar funnyman Jim Carrey in "Bruce Almighty."

Dressed casually this afternoon in a brown top and slacks with her straight blonde hair loosely pulled back in a bun, Jennifer enters the room with a cup of tea, nursing a cold and sounding hoarse.

"I'm sorry I haven't been feeling well lately," she apologizes. "I kicked my own butt. I've been working so hard these past months that I am taking four months off if I can to visit my husband (who has been busy filming, too), move into our house (they recently bought a $14-million, 12,000-square-foot, six-bedroom mansion in Beverly Hills) and that's it."

Unlike other rich and famous Hollywood actresses, Aniston, 34, has remained unaffected, down-to-earth and approachable. She is the kind of girl who you would like to hang out with and get to know better. She radiates sincerity and a spontaneity that is rare among Hollywood royalty. She answers questions matter of factly, and confidently conducts an open, freewheeling interview.

Wanting children

Aniston, who has been married to Pitt, 39, for nearly three years, admits that sometimes it is hard for her and Pitt to spend private moments together because "I recently did two movies, then I'm doing a TV show. I just did too much and that was crazy. I was out of my mind so now I know to take one job at a time."

The star of the TV hit, "Friends," which earned her an Emmy and a Golden Globe, Aniston adds that "in an ideal world, you come home, you have a pretty decent life, you plan it around especially when we have kids already. For sure, one would be working and would have to stay home."

So, are she and Pitt planning to have kids in the near future?

"Not right now, but yes we do want to have kids, too," she confesses.

Aniston stars as the day care owner Grace Connelly, the loving girlfriend of Jim Carrey as ambitious Eyewitness News TV reporter Bruce Nolan in "Bruce Almighty." She reveals that in this hilarious comedy, one of the most challenging scenes was "the orgasm scene. It was mortifying. That was my greatest challenge–doing that on camera. It was a funny scene followed by the wrestling flip and Jim's chockfull of surprises. It came off better than I remembered doing it."

Sex scene

So what did Brad say about that one?

"He loved it and he thought it was hilarious. He said it was probably one of his favorite 'sex' scenes," she reveals with a laugh.

"Bruce Almighty," directed by Tom Shadyac ("Ace Ventura: Pet Detective") and distributed by Buena Vista International and Spyglass Entertainment, opened No. 1 in the US with an estimated $86.1 million.

It is the story of a newscaster Bruce Nolan (Carrey) who encounters a streak of bad luck in one day (he gets fired, gets beaten up by a gang who vandalizes his car, then has a big fight with his girlfriend Grace). He then curses and gets mad at God until he finds himself being led to an old building called Omni Presents Inc. where he meets a janitor who turns out to be God (impressively portrayed by Morgan Freeman).

The comedic events occur when God gives Nolan a chance to do His job and to use his powers at his disposal.

Amazing Carrey

So, did Carrey challenge Aniston to push herself a bit further in comedy acting?

"I have always wanted to be in a Jim Carrey movie," she confesses. "So when they offered me the part, I said yes. I hadn't even read the script yet. I just took it on good faith. As for Jim, he took physical comedy to a whole other level. I mean, I was bruised. I was scraped. I didn't break anything, but boy, he really takes it to another level.

"He is a master of his body. It's amazing. He can't hurt himself somehow. I don't know how he does it but he never hurts himself. He's like a piece of rubber. He literally is. And I feel so safe with him. He doesn't hurt me."

Has she ever fantasized about meeting God in person?

"And he was Morgan Freeman?" she replies with a smile. "Wouldn't that be cool? No, I haven't really dreamt about meeting God in person. I don't know how he looks like."

Does she pray?

"Oh yeah, I pray," she says. "I have my own version of praying. But I don't sit by my bed and pray, you know."

What kind of things does she pray for?

"I pray for health. I pray for people to find happiness. I pray for all sorts of things that come up."

Other entertainment

Does she pray that the paparazzi leave her alone?

"I do pray for that," Aniston admits. "I pray that there would be some other form of magazine entertainment besides tabloids. That would be great. I think they are insulting the intelligence of people and unfortunately, half of the people believe most of their crap.

"I don't know why when there's already so much hate in our world that we still try to sort of destroy each other in print."

So, does she ban newspapers and magazines in her house? "Yes, we don't let any of that stuff in our house," she points out.

"But somehow, you can't help but see stuff when you go to a friend's house. Sometimes, our friends want to play goofs on us and even laminate certain things."

Then she adds, "But you know what, one of these days, they will get tired of chasing and writing about us. They will get bored of us. Somebody new is going to come along and she will be the flavor of the month.

"And for as long as we know the truth, that's all that matters."

> 'But one of these days, they'll get tired of chasing and writing about us. They'll get bored of us. Somebody new is going to come along and she'll be the flavor of the month'

HOLY SMOKE, it's Jim Carrey as "Bruce Almighty"!

Pops stars in tribute to National Artists

SHOW TIME

POPULAR performers will pay tribute to National Artists Lucio San Pedro, Ernani Cuenco, Levi Celerio, Atang de la Rama, Jovita Fuentes and the newly conferred National Artists for 2003 in a musical concert, "Lagi Kitang Mamahalin," July 11 and 12 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater).

The concert will feature Sharon Cuneta, Regine Velasquez, Lani Misalucha, Jolina Magdangal, Vina Morales, Roselle Nava, Jong Cuenco, Verni Varga, Raymond Lauchengco, Eugene Villaluz, Jose Llana, Bituin Escalante, Carlo Orosa, Mark Bautista, Paulo Santos, Sheila Francisco, Sarah Geronimo, Arnold Reyes, JM Rodriguez, Noel Rayos, Tonipet Gaba, Tex Ordoñez, Ana Fegi, Calvin Millado, Karla Gutierrez and Cris Villonco.

Also performing are the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Prof. Chino Toledo, Tanghalang Pilipino, the Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Co., the Philippine Madrigal Singers, Ballet Philippines, UP Madrigals, UP Concert Chorus, UP College of Music Choir, Streamline Quartet, DJs Malek Lopez and Noel Brackinghe.

The show will have novelty numbers fusing the idioms of rap and rave, and *zarzuela* excerpts.

Presented with Viva Entertainment, the concert promotes the works and achievements of the National Artists, particularly among the youth, to raise funds for the National Artists Gallery.

The set design by Salvador Bernal also pays tribute to the visions of the National Artists for Architecture.

Direction is by Chris Millado. Choreography is by Edna Vida, Denisa Reyes and Alden Lugnasin.

Tickets are P2,000, P1,500, P1,000, P800, P500 and P300, with a 50-percent discount on balcony tickets for students and a 20-percent discount for senior citizens.

For inquiries, call the CCP marketing department at 832-3681, 551-7930 or 832-1125, local 1800 or 1807.

DID YOU KNOW...

Alessandra de Rossi and **Oyoboy Sotto** went out on a date last Saturday and watched "The Real Cancun" at Glorietta 4 at the Ayala Center in Makati City. They were holding hands while walking and looked very sweet to each other. Fans who saw them were surprised since Alessandra recently admitted on nationwide television that she and boyfriend **Polo Ravales** had gone back to each other's arms while Oyoboy went on vacation in the Gold Coast, Australia with girlfriend **Anne Curtis** and her family.

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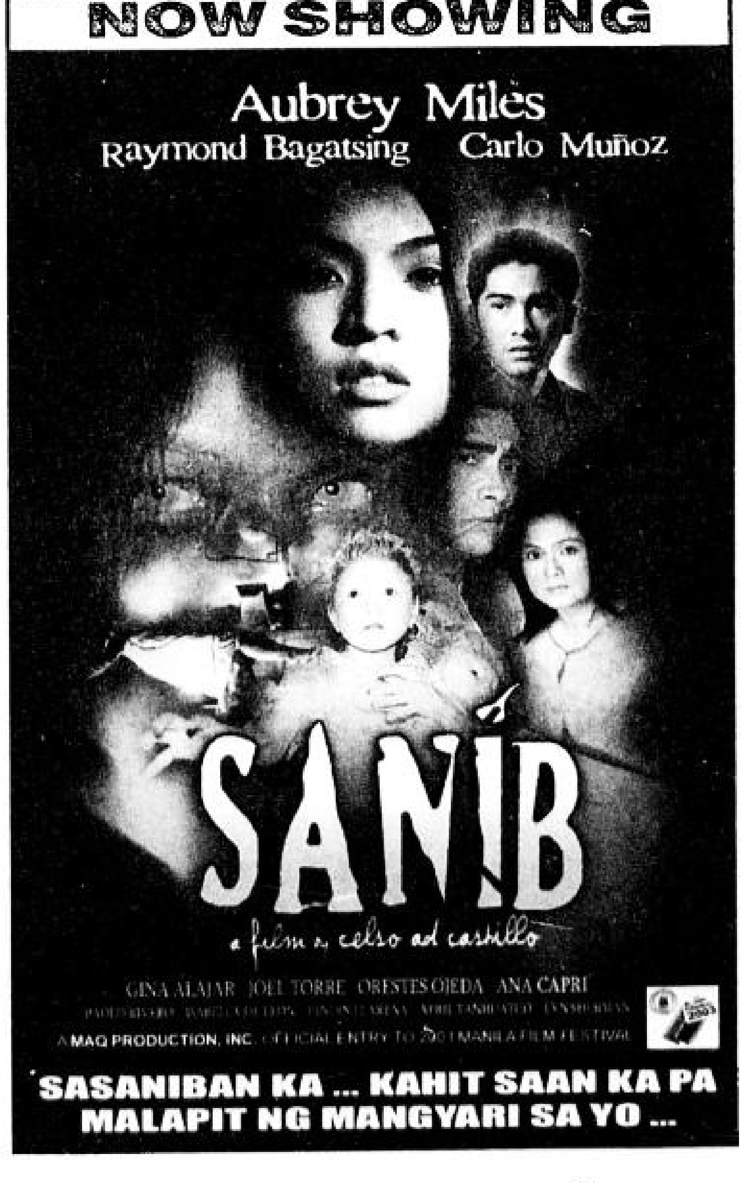
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1 ALAB NG LAHI	1 THE MATRIX RELOADED	ArtFilm 1 WHO IS CLETIS TOUT? 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12:55, 3:00, 5:05, 7:10, 9:15, 11:20	THX 1 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KO
	2 HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS		GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30	2 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA 11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 FRIDA 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK	4 OPERATION BALIKATAN			
	5 SANIB	Onstage CARDINAL UNPLUGGED AN ACOUSTIC ROCK CONCERT June 13 - 8pm	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 DARKNESS FALLS 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	4 SANIB
4 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA	6 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA			
	7 IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30	5 DARKNESS FALLS

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7 (DTS)	SANIB
8 (SDDS)	PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
9 (DOLBY)	OPERATION BALIKATAN

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	OPERATION BALIKATAN
2	PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
3	ALAB NG LAHI
4 (SDDS)	SANIB
5	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 (DOLBY)	BERTUD NG PUTIK
7 (DTS)	SANIB
8	PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
9	

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1	PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
2 (SDDS)	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 (DTS)	SANIB
4 (DOLBY)	ALAB NG LAHI
5	OPERATION BALIKATAN

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
2	SANIB
3 (DTS)	PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
4	OPERATION BALIKATAN
5 (SDDS)	ALAB NG LAHI

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BERTUD NG PUTIK

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	SANIB

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	SANIB
Lords	OPERATION BALIKATAN
Jennet	SANIB

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	ALAB NG LAHI
2	BERTUD NG PUTIK
3	SANIB
4	OPERATION BALIKATAN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	OPERATION BALIKATAN
2	PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
3	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4	ALAB NG LAHI
5	SANIB

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	
2	

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
2	PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta
MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400

1	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2	ALAB NG LAHI
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SANIB
4 (SDDS)	BERTUD NG PUTIK
5 (DTS)	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6	SANIB
7	OPERATION BALIKATAN

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242/8400

1	CLOSED
2	CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0928

1	SANIB
2	ALAB NG LAHI
3 (DTS)	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2 (DTS)	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 (DOLBY)	SANIB
4	OPERATION BALIKATAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	ALAB NG LAHI
2 (DOLBY)	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
3 (DTS)	SANIB
4	BERTUD NG PUTIK

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	THE MATRIX
2	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY)	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	BERTUD NG PUTIK
3 (DOLBY)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 (DTS)	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	BERTUD NG PUTIK
2 (DTS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2	ALAB NG LAHI
3 (DTS)	BERTUD NG PUTIK
4	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2	OPERATION BALIKATAN
3 (DTS)	ALAB NG LAHI
4	BERTUD NG PUTIK
5	SANIB

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	OPERATION BALIKATAN
2	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3	BERTUD NG PUTIK

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
2	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3	OPERATION BALIKATAN

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	SANIB
2	TANGING INA
3 (DTS)	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
4 (DOLBY)	BERTUD NG PUTIK

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	
2 (DTS)	

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
2	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
3	

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	SANIB
2	BERTUD NG PUTIK
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	BERTUD NG PUTIK
2	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS)	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
4	SANIB

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2	SANIB
3 (DOLBY)	BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 (DTS)	ANG TANGING INA

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72

AGENT CODY BANKS

NOW SHOWING

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173888

1	ALAB NG LAHI
2	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3	SANIB
4	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
5	OPERATION BALIKATAN
6	BERTUD NG PUTIK
7	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
8	THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM CENTERPOINT
7148522 -7161416

1	SANIB
2	PANGARAP KO AY IBIGIN KA
3	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4	ALAB NG LAHI
5	BERTUD NG PUTIK
6	OPERATION BALIKATAN
7	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
8	DARKNESS FALLS
9	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
10	THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9360749

1	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
2	OPERATION BALIKATAN
3	ALAB NG LAHI
4	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
5	SANIB
6	BERTUD NG PUTIK
7	THE MATRIX RELOADED
8	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
9	DARKNESS FALLS
10	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
11	BERTUD NG PUTIK
12	AGENT CODY BANKS

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	SANIB
2	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3	ALAB NG LAHI
4	OPERATION BALIKATAN
5	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
6	BERTUD NG PUTIK
7	ALAB NG LAHI
8	SANIB
9	OPERATION BALIKATAN
10	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
11	BERTUD NG PUTIK
12	PANGARAP KO AY IBIGIN KA

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	THE MATRIX RELOADED
2	ALAB NG LAHI
3	BERTUD NG PUTIK
4	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
5	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6	THE 8TH FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL
7	DARKNESS FALLS
8	ALAB NG LAHI
9	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
10	SANIB
11	OPERATION BALIKATAN
12	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
2	ALAB NG LAHI
3	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4	SANIB
5	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
6	BERTUD NG PUTIK
7	OPERATION BALIKATAN
8	BERTUD NG PUTIK

SM SOUTHMALL
8068888

1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
2	SANIB
3	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
4	ALAB NG LAHI
5	THE MATRIX RELOADED
6	DARKNESS FALLS
7	OPERATION BALIKATAN
8	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
9	BERTUD NG PUTIK
10	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	AGENT CODY BANKS
3	SANIB
4	BERTUD NG PUTIK
5	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6	ANG TANGING INA
7	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
8	DARKNESS FALLS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	DARKNESS FALLS
2	CLOSED
3	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	AGENT CODY BANKS
6	ANG TANGING INA
7	CLOSED
8	SANIB

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
2	OPERATION BALIKATAN
3	SANIB
4	ALAB NG LAHI
5	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6	BERTUD NG PUTIK

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
2	SANIB
3	ALAB NG LAHI
4	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	OPERATION BALIKATAN
2	BERTUD NG PUTIK
3	ALAB NG LAHI
4	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	DARKNESS FALLS
2	SANIB
3	BERTUD NG PUTIK
4	ANG TANGING INA
5	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
6	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

SM BICUTAN
776-3055

1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
2	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
4	OPERATION BALIKATAN

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884

1	SO CLOSE
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
4	WHAT A GIRL WANTS

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1	PANGARAP KO AY IBIGIN KA 10:10 MF/10:30/12:50/3:10/5:30/7:50 / 9:40 LFS/10:10 LMF/12:00 END
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY 10:30 FS/11:00 MF/1:00/3:00/5:00/7:00/ 9:00/10:45 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:45 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 • Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate : P120.00 • After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD
CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls
call-a-movie: 536- 7812
NOW SHOWING

Galleria 632- 9115- 16 / 633- 7641 loc. 279

THX	BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12:50,3:00,5:10,7:20, 9:30LMF,11:10 END
2	HULING BIRHEN
3	MATRIX
4	THE GURO
5	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA
6	DARKNESS FALLS
7	SANIB
8	BERTUD NG PUTIK
9	ALAB NG HAHI
10	BALIKATAN

MATINEE PRICE: P90 THX cinema / P75 1level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita 536 -7809- 12

1	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA
2	SANIB
3	BERTUD NG PUTIK
4	HULING BIRHEN
5	ALAB NG LAHI
6	BALIKATAN
7	BERTUD NG PUTIK

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA
3	BALIKATAN
4	ALAB NG LAHI
5	DARKNESS FALLS
6	HULING BIRHEN
7	SANIB
8	BERTUD NG PUTIK

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30

1	DARKNESS FALLS
2	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA
3	BALIKATAN
4	ALAB NG LAHI
5	HULING BIRHEN
6	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
7	SANIB
8	BERTUD NG PUTIK

Malabon Citisquare 288-0985 / 288-2575

1	BALIKATAN
2	ALAB NG LAHI
3	HULING BIRHEN
4	BERTUD NG PUTIK

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp (045)875-1927 / (045)961-5270

1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
2	HULING BIRHEN
3	BALIKATAN
4	SANIB
5	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA
6	ALAB NG LAHI

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	SANIB
2	HULING BIRHEN
3	BERTUD NG PUTIK
4	BALIKATAN
5	ALAB NG LAHI
6	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA

Sta. Rosa Laguna (049)837-0907

1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
2	SANIB
3	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA
4	ALAB NG LAHI
5	HULING BIRHEN

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA
4	DARKNESS FALLS
5	WHAT A GIRL WANT
6	DAYO

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	AGENT CODY BANKS
3	DARKNESS FALLS
4	ANG TANGING INA
5	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA
6	SANIB

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Directors, writers conduct acting, writing workshops

GRUPONG Tinta, a non-profit group of writers and directors organized to promote the creative arts through workshops, will offer its third basic acting workshop for film and TV and 8th scriptwriting workshop for film and TV.

The intensive acting workshop will be handled by Jose Javier Reyes, Mel Chionglo, Carlitos Siguion Reyna, Bodjie Pascua and Rahyan Carlos, among others.

The participants will act in a *telesine* production with professional actors on the set.

The *telesine* will serve as the output of the acting workshop to showcase the acting prowess of the participants in front of talent managers, TV and movie producers.

The scriptwriting workshop will be handled by Ricky Lee, Bibeth Orteza, Rahyan Carlos and other TV writers.

The basic acting workshop for teens and adults (16 years old and up) will have 10 sessions and will be held every Sunday, 2-8 p.m.

The scriptwriting workshop for film and TV will have 10 sessions and will also be held every Sunday, 8 a.m.-12 noon.

No professional acting or writing experience is necessary. This will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registrations will be on June 14 and 15 at the Philippine Information Agency on Visayas Avenue in Quezon City.

For details, call 456-2084 or 0916-582-3085.

DID YOU KNOW...

A svelte **Alma Concepcion** two Sundays ago went shopping with a female friend at the Alabang Town Center (ATC). Now that she's back in shape, she can start accepting movies again. But Alma, who has a three-year-old son, says she will not do sexy roles.

The Ayala Mall Events

AYALA CENTER Glorietta & Greenbelt · ALABANG TOWN CENTER · AYALA CENTER CEBU

Father's Day at the Ayala Malls

AYALA CENTER
Fun and Entertainment - Watch the show and join the Father and Son games to win lots of prizes.

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Motortown 2003, Alabang Town Center Car Show June 9-15, 2003

Basketball Play Pass Promo - Dads get one (1) basketball pass at Toby's or Olympic World for a minimum purchase of P500 at any ATC establishment.

Father's Day Treats at Food Choices at the Town - Free iced tea refill at any Food Choices establishment for every P100 food purchase.

AYALA CEBU
Instant Win Promo - Free bottle of wine for the first 300 shoppers per day from June 13-15 who can present P1,000 worth of receipt from any Ayala Center Cebu's stores (except Metro Ayala).

Fun and Entertainment - Special show featuring Marissa Sanchez and Ate Glow.

Ayala Malls. Because you deserve more.
www.ayalamalls.com.ph www.ayalaland.com.ph

DON'T MISS AN ACHINGLY FUNNY MOVIE WITH ONE OF HOLLYWOOD'S MOST TALENTED FAMILIES

A SPECIAL FATHERS' DAY PRESENTATION

MICHAEL DOUGLAS & KIRK DOUGLAS

IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY

Some families can survive anything. Even each other.

Alex Gromberg (Michael Douglas) is a man caught in the middle. Trying to avoid the mistakes his father made, Alex is navigating the tricky roles of father, son, and husband.

Onscreen together for the first time in their careers, Michael Douglas and Kirk Douglas join their real-life relations (Cameron Douglas, Diana Douglas) in a story about the loving, frustrating, reassuring, insane, and ultimately inescapable bonds of family.

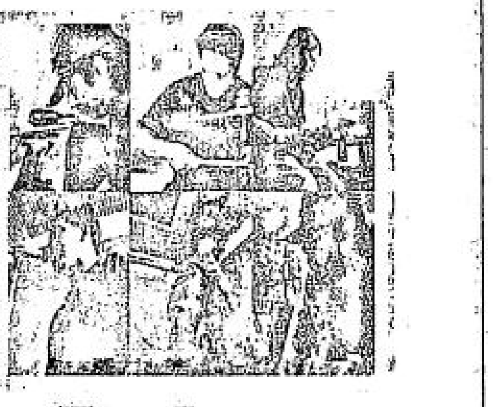
NOW SHOWING EXCLUSIVELY AT
GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3

AYALA CINEMAS · Buena Vista International

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

CARDINAL EVENTS
PRESENTS
CARDINAL UNPLUGGED
AN ACOUSTIC ROCK CONCERT
FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE BISHOP RAFAEL LIM FOUNDATION

RAZORBACK



THE DAWN

LICKETY SPLIT

KAPATID

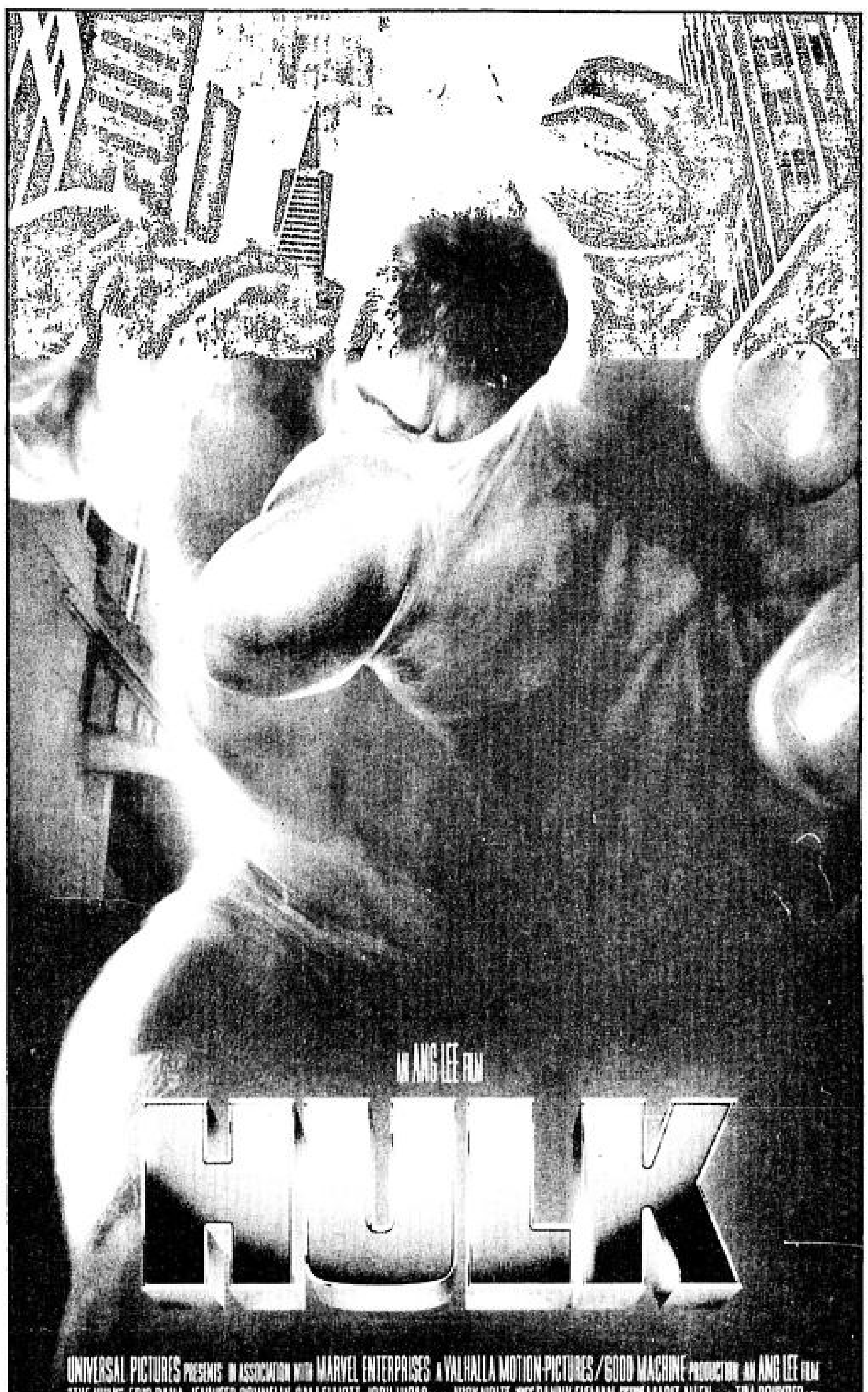
CARDINAL ENTERTAINMENT

Greenbelt Onstage

8:00 PM, June 13, 2003, Onstage Theater, Greenbelt I
Tickets PhP 750 / 600 / 500, VIP Tickets also available

Tickets are available at major National Book Store branches, Robinson's Department Stores (Malate & Galleria), Tower Records (Makati & Alabang), Music Museum (Virra Mall, Greenhills), Ayala Center Inc. Greenbelt I Ticket Booth Cinema Lobby, Glorietta I Ticket Booth Cinema Lobby and on the TicketWorld website found at www.ticketworld.com.ph. Call 891-5610 for inquiries and reservations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 687-1261
OR VISIT GEOCITIES.COM/CARDINAL_EVENTS


AN ANG LEE FILM
HULK
UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH MARVEL ENTERPRISES A VALHALLA MOTION PICTURES / GOOD MACHINE PRODUCTION AN ANG LEE FILM
"THE HULK" ERIC BANA JENNIFER CONNELLY SAM ELLIOTT JOSH LUCAS AND NICK NOLTE MUSIC BY DANNY ELFMAN COSTUME DESIGNER MARIT ALLEN EDITOR TIM SQUYRES A.C.E.
PRODUCTION DESIGNER RICK HEINRICHS DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY FREDERICK ELMES ASC EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS STAN LEE KEVIN FEIGE PRODUCED BY GALE ANNE HURD AVI ARAD JAMES SCHAMUS LARRY FRANCO
SOUNDTRACK ON DECCA / UMG SOUNDTRACKS
www.thehulk.com
STORY BY JAMES SCHAMUS SCREENPLAY BY JOHN TURMAN AND MICHAEL FRANCE AND JAMES SCHAMUS
MARVEL
DIRECTED BY ANG LEE
A UNIVERSAL PICTURE
VIVA

THURSDAY JUNE 19

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

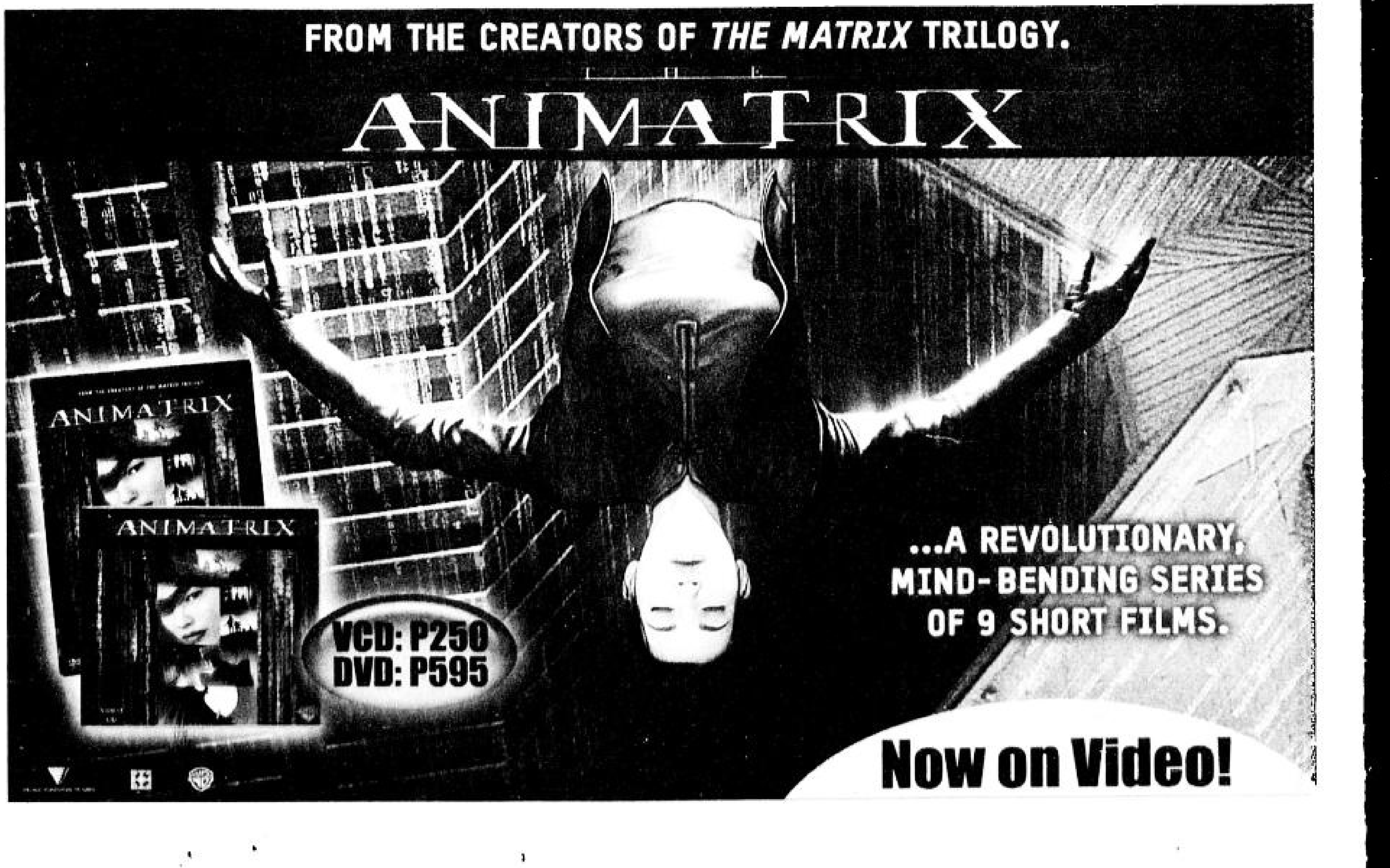
Ali 1	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
Ali 2	ALAB NG LAHI
Ali 3	SANIB
Ali 4	BERTUD NG PUTIK
Ali 5	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
Ali 6	SANIB
Ali 7	OPERATION BALIKATAN

ARANETA COLISEUM

JUNE 14	MARTIN & REGINE CONCERT
JUNE 16,18,20	WORLD SLASHER CUP DERBY
JUNE 15 & 22	PBA GAMES
JUNE 28	NCAA OPENING CEREMONIES
JULY 12	UAAP OPENING CEREMONIES
JULY 13	UAAP GAMES

ELEPHANT WORLD
FUN RIDES
TAGADISCO • VIKING SHIP
START 4 PM DAILY

FROM THE CREATORS OF *THE MATRIX* TRILOGY.


THE ANIMATRIX
ANIMATRIX
ANIMATRIX
VCD: P250
DVD: P595
...A REVOLUTIONARY, MIND-BENDING SERIES OF 9 SHORT FILMS.
Now on Video!

There's a career in here.
JOB MARKET

From 'Hawi Boy' to multimillion-peso man

From page C8

and I worked really hard. I believe that in every difficulty lies an opportunity."

In 2001, Tan was among those who formed Millionaires in Business (MIB), eight friends involved in network marketing for Prudential Life. Their vision is to provide life-changing opportunities to develop a financially literate and debt-free society.

"Our mission is to create millionaires through effective and responsible business practices," Tan explains. "Our company was built to inspire, develop, educate, empower and enrich the life of every person we came in contact with."

45 in 2 years

MIB members to date include hairstylist and salon owner Pin Antonio, actor Dino Guevarra, singer Franco Laurel and TV actor L.A. Mumar.

MAN OF MISSION Tan with wife Novee.

Only two years old, MIB has produced 45 millionaires, according to Tan. The company's business network covers the country and reaches out to the region and the world, he says.

"Wherever there are Filipinos who wish to save and earn at the same time, MIB is there," Tan says.

Tan also conducts seminars on financial management, how to get out of debt, budgeting and the six steps to financial freedom. At the end of the year, he is set to release the book "Six Steps to Financial Freedom."

MIB is also behind the weekly business-magazine program, "Buhay Milyonaryo," which airs on RPN on Sundays, 2:30 to 3 p.m. Hosted by Amy Perez, the program features testimonies of entrepreneurs who became millionaires through diligence and hard work. It lso features celebrities engaged in business.

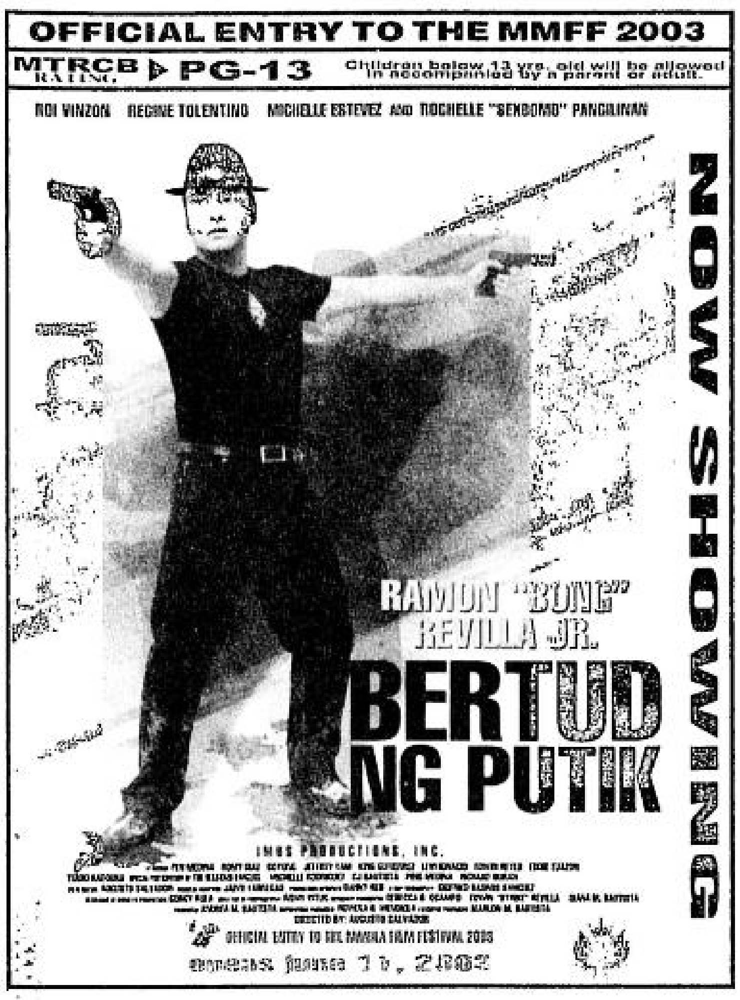
Passion to help

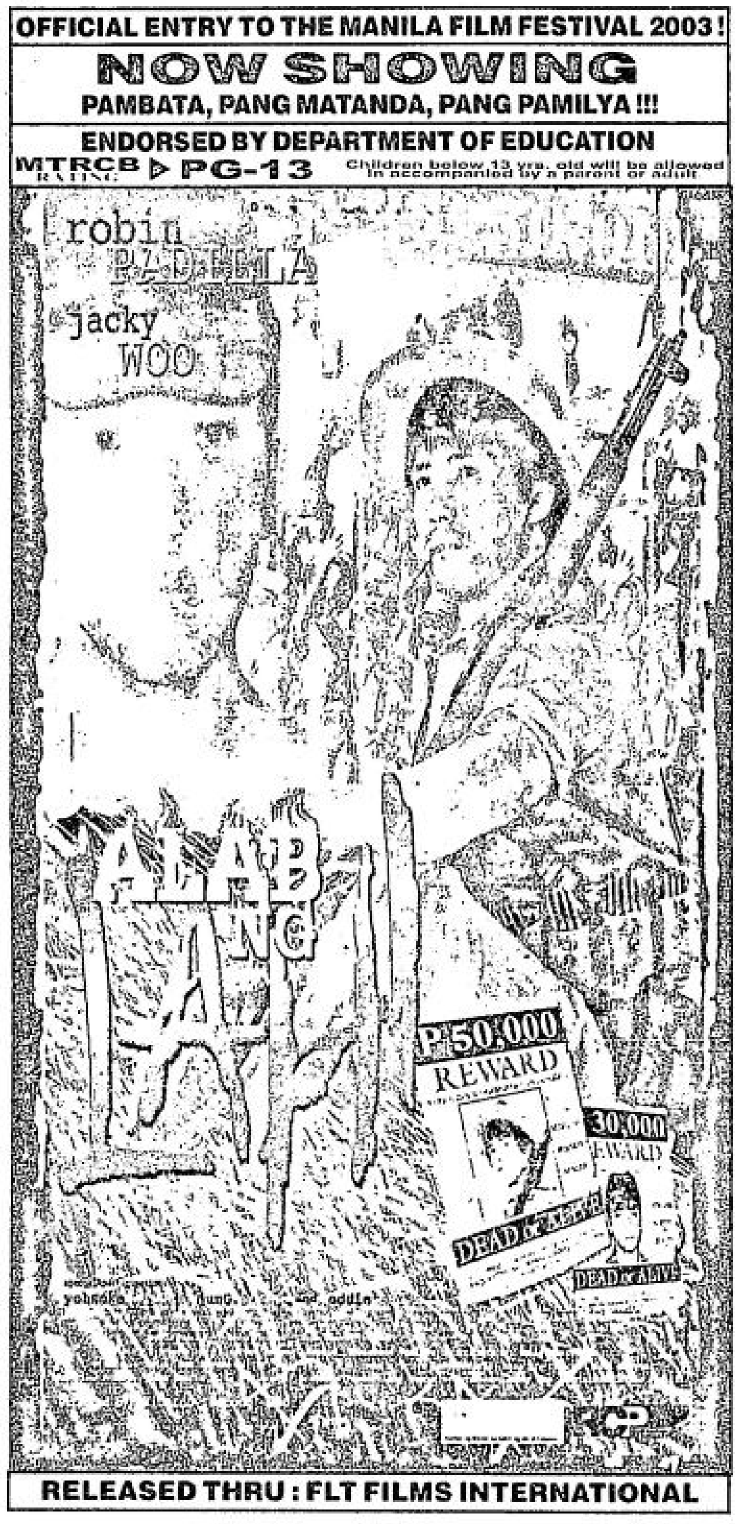
Tan, who is the project coordinator of MIB, hopes that the testimonies of successful entrepreneurs on "Buhay Milyonaryo" will encourage viewers to make a good living and become millionaires, too.

"Our passion is to help people achieve financial freedom, learn more from their real-life experiences and make them rich through effective and responsible education and business practice," Tan says. "We urge them to learn, earn, accumulate, and then retire."

Even as a multimillionaire now, Tan says he doesn't have qualms about eating at fastfood joints.

"One time, a server at a Jollibee food counter recognized me and wondered why I was eating there," he recalls. "I told him, 'Why not? *Gusto ko ang pagkain.*"


OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE MMFF 2003
MTRCB RATING ▷ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult.
ROI VINZON REGINE TOLENTINO MICHELLE ESTEVEZ AND ROCHELLE "SEXBOMB" PANGILINAN
NOW SHOWING
RAMON "BONG" REVILLA JR.
BERTUD NG PUTIK
IMUS PRODUCTIONS, INC.
DIRECTED BY: AUGUSTO SALVADOR
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2003


OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2003!
NOW SHOWING
PAMBATA, PANG MATANDA, PANG PAMILYA !!!
ENDORSED BY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
MTRCB RATING ▷ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult.
robin PADILLA
jacky WOO
ALAB NG LAHI
P50,000 REWARD
30,000 REWARD
DEAD or ALIVE
RELEASED THRU : FLT FILMS INTERNATIONAL

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	ALAB NG LAHI
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	HIRAM
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	ALAB NG LAHI
B	BERTUD NG PUTIK
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-70 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-2	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-3	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SANIB
CINEMA-6	ALAB NG LAHI
CINEMA-7	BERTUD NG PUTIK
CINEMA-8	OPERATION BALIKATAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SANIB
CINEMA-12	ALAB NG LAHI
CINEMA-14	BERTUD NG PUTIK
CINEMA-15	OPERATION BALIKATAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
CINEMA 2	PUTIK
CINEMA 3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA 4	SANIB
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

FRIDA R18 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	AGENT CODY BANKS PG13 1:10,3:20,5:30, 7:40,9:50	TANGING INA GP 12:20,2:40,5:00, 7:20,9:40
DARKNESS FALLS PG13 12:10,2:05,4:00, 5:55,7:50,9:45	SANIB PG13 1:20,3:30,5:40, 7:50,10:00	BRUCE ALMIGHTY PG13 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

THEATRE-MALL GREENHILLS

DOLBY DIGITAL

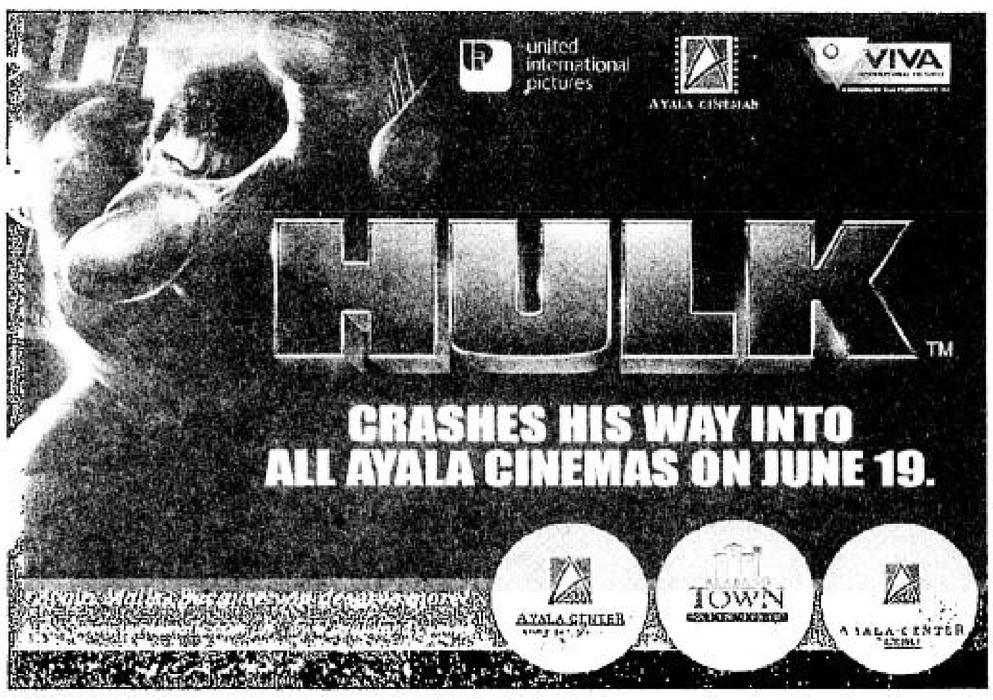
CINEMA 1	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50 GP
CINEMA 2	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA 11:40, 1:55,4:10, 6:25, 8:40 R18

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

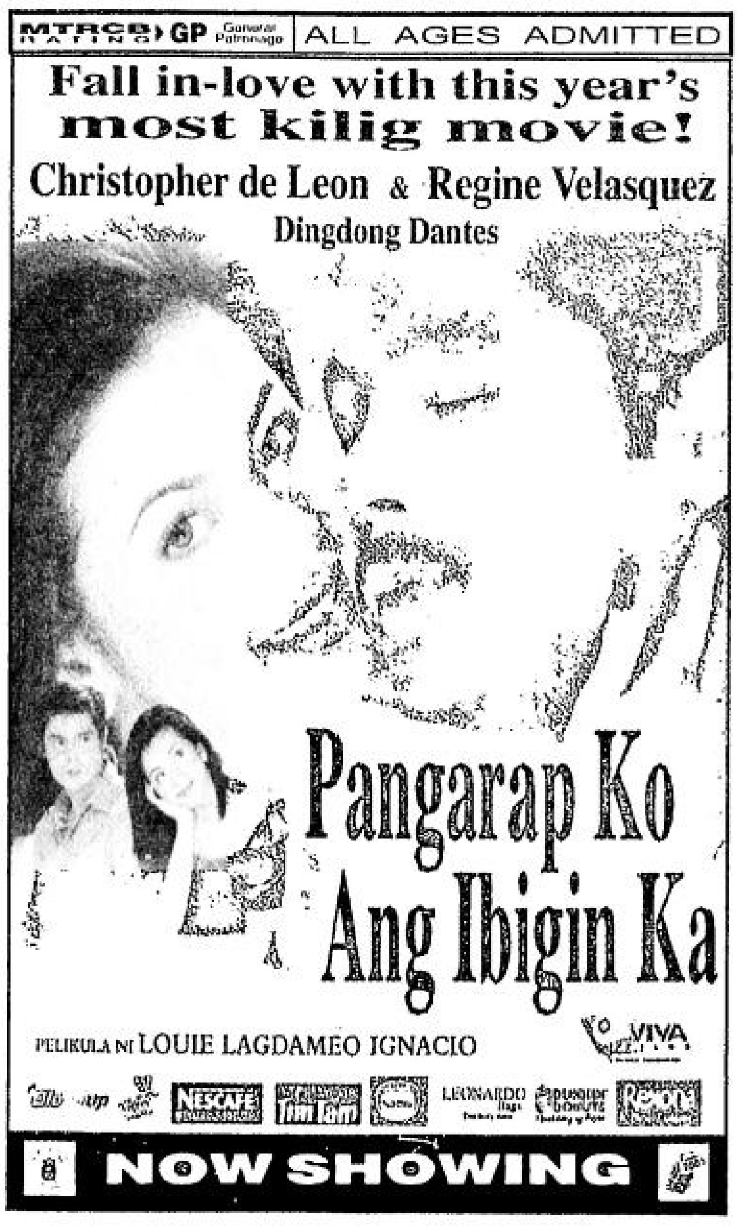
MUSIC MUSEUM

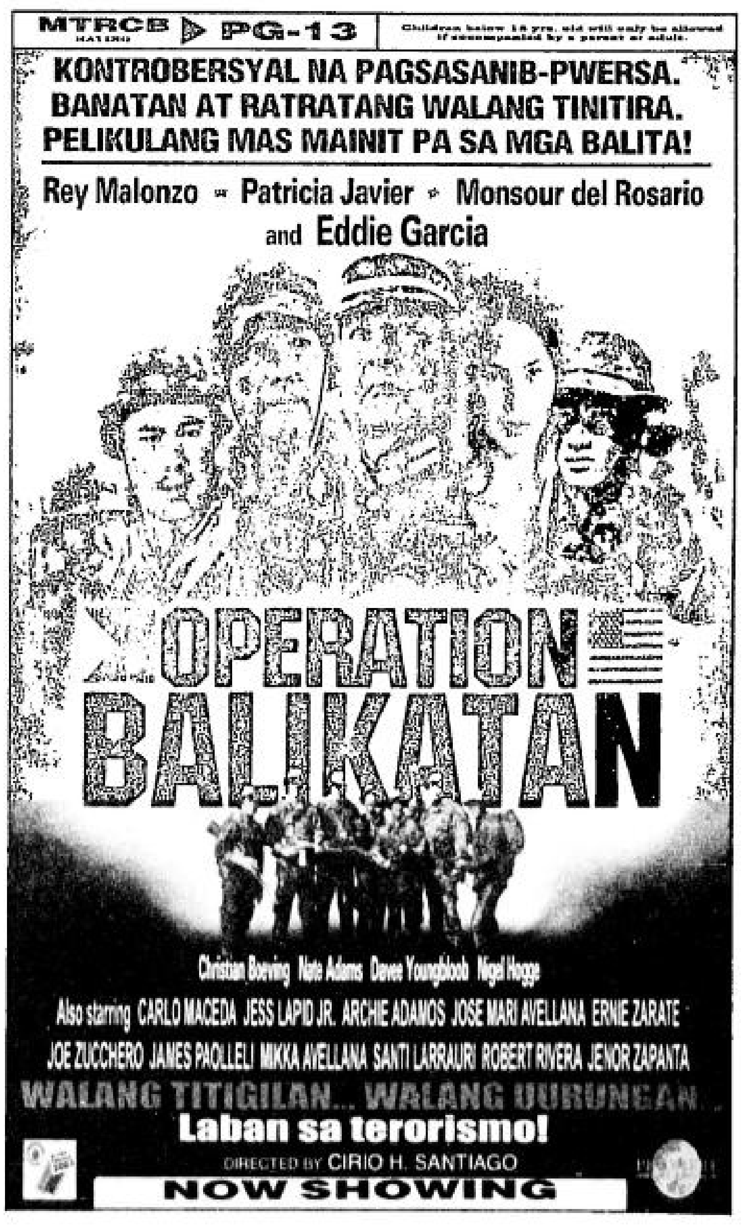
JUNE 19 2003	"CHANGE A LIFE" (LANI MISALUCHA)	8:30PM
JUNE 28 2003	N I N A "HEAVEN SENT"	8:00PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL 721-6726 OR 721-0635


united international pictures
AYALA CINEMAS
VIVA
HULK
CRASHES HIS WAY INTO ALL AYALA CINEMAS ON JUNE 19.
AYALA CENTER
TOWN
AYALA CENTER CEBU

MTRCB RATING ▷ R RESTRICTED
Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
KAILAN KA HULING SUMAMBA NG BIRHEN?
ang huling birhen sa lupa
ARA at MAUI
TALAGANG MAGKAKASALA KA!
DIRECTED BY JOEL C. LAMANGAN DGPI
NEO
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE MANILA FILM FESTIVAL
NOW SHOWING


MTRCB RATING ▷ GP General Patronage
ALL AGES ADMITTED
Fall in-love with this year's most kilig movie!
Christopher de Leon & Regine Velasquez
Dingdong Dantes
Pangarap Ko Ang Ibigin Ka
PELIKULA NI LOUIE LAGDAMEO IGNACIO
VIVA
NESCAFE
LEONARDO
NOW SHOWING


MTRCB RATING ▷ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
KONTROBERSYAL NA PAGSASANIB-PWERSA.
BANATAN AT RATRATANG WALANG TINITIRA.
PELIKULANG MAS MAINIT PA SA MGA BALITA!
Rey Malonzo • Patricia Javier • Monsour del Rosario
and Eddie Garcia
OPERATION BALIKATAN
Christian Boeving Nate Adams Davee Youngblood Nigel Hogge
Also starring CARLO MACEDA JESS LAPID JR. ARCHIE ADAMOS JOSE MARI AVELLANA ERNIE ZARATE
JOE ZUCCHERO JAMES PAOLLELI MIKKA AVELLANA SANTI LARRAURI ROBERT RIVERA JENOR ZAPANTA
WALANG TITIGILAN... WALANG UURUNGAN
Laban sa terorismo!
DIRECTED BY CIRIO H. SANTIAGO
NOW SHOWING

From 'Hawi Boy' to multimillion-peso man

By Leah Salterio

YESTERDAY

TO SHOW BIZ followers and to his friends, he is Chinkee Tan, the chinky-eyed comedian who started out in the '80s as one of the "Hawi Boys" of Randy Santiago. In the corporate world today, he is Ferdie Tan, the guy who became a millionaire through sheer hard work and determination.

Before Ferdinand "Chinkee" Tan entered show biz and started earning a decent regular income, he had to learn the hard way how to make money.

As a child who was born and raised in Tondo, Tan helped augment his family's income by selling toilet paper.

"I made P40 per box of a dozen tissue rolls," says Tan, the eldest of three children. "When my dad's insurance business collapsed, I was forced to help my parents earn money.

"I also sold pants, shoes, shirts and other garments. I believe I got my keen business sense from my mother, who taught me how to sell all kinds of things."

What made Tan value his money was perhaps the lack of it while he was growing up. In school, he experienced having to insert a cardboard sheet into his worn-out shoes to cover the holes in the soles.

When Voltes V was a craze in the '70s, he couldn't even buy a Voltes V sticker for his notebook, he says.

"I had to wait for the sticker on my classmate's notebook to peel off, then I would glue it to my notebook," Tan shares. "Those experiences made me strive harder."

Afternoon disco

When he was a business management major at the Philippine School of Business Administration (PSBA), Tan made use of his entrepreneurial skills by organizing afternoon discos, with a featured artist. He and nine of his friends chipped in P500 each and they organized an afternoon disco with the P5,000. Eventually, they brought the afternoon disco to the Makati Commercial Center's Rumors, then the most popular entertainment venue in Metro Manila.

Tan would later go into concert production. With P15,000, he also produced a Randy Santiago show at Rumors.

"The place had a capacity of 2,000, but 3,000 came to watch Randy," Tan recalls. "The line then was from the old Quad to Rumors," near the present site of the SM Makati parking lot.

Comic flair

Tan entered show biz in 1987. Randy was then at the peak of his popularity and he needed bodyguards and protectors from fans and mobs. Tan became one of these guys.

It was Randy who gave Tan his show biz name, Chinkee, and made him one of the "Hawi (literally, to part or break up, as in a crowd) Boys," together with Dennis Padilla and Jong Cuenco, among others.

But there was more to Tan than just being a Hawi Boy. He also had a flair for comedy, which brought him TV and movie breaks.

From his first movie, the Jimmy Santos starrer, "I Love You Three Times a Day," Tan went on to make 35 movies.

"I really enjoyed show biz," Tan asserts. "I was able to develop a good network and contacts in the movie industry. Now I use that as leverage in the corporate world. People still recognize me as the comedian they used to see on TV and the movies. That helps give me credibility and edge."

HOW TO get rich is one of the subjects of the seminars conducted by Tan.

COMIC CAREER. Tan as a comedian in the '80s.

Sell-out fans

Even when he was in show biz, Tan didn't neglect his business sense. At the height of the brownouts during the Cory Aquino administration, Tan sold rechargable electric fans.

"When businesses were collapsing because of the daily brownouts, mine was moving," he says with pride. "The electric fans were sold out every day."

He also produced the first concerts of Ogie Alcasid ("Peksman" at Heartbeat Disco in Quezon City) and Dingdong Avanzado ("Lovestruck," also at Rumors), as well as other shows for Martin Nievera and Regine Velasquez.

"I consider myself frugal," Tan grants. "I save 80 percent of what I earn. Randy would ask us to eat out after a show, but I would rather go home if he would not be footing the bill. I didn't want to spend my money. I'd rather save it for more important things."

In 1992, Tan became a Born-Again Christian, thanks to his fellow "Lunch Date" co-host Toni Rose Gayda, who shared the Good Word with him. Today, he attends the Victory Christian Fellowship at Robinson's Galleria, together with other celebrities such as Coney Reyes, Rommel Adducul, Donita Rose and Alvin Patrimonio.

MIB

Tan met in this same church the woman who became his wife four years ago, Novee, who is their worship leader. Novee is a voice teacher at the UST Conservatory of Music, where she also graduated magna cum laude. The Tans have two kids, Kyla and Jethro.

When Tan left show business in 1994, he was 28. He vowed he would make his first million before he reached 35.

"I had a breakthrough in 1995 when I started earning P50,000 a month," he says. "I didn't stop working,

FROM/ C7

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Cool off while you work out with over 250 weight-lifting equipment and exercise machines. And 70 cardio classes. Value that money can't buy. Hurry, offer good until June 30, 2003 only.

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Gold's Gym Xpress,
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*on a minimum 12-month term

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-296 Series of 2003.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Trend Spotting LIFESTYLE Home

For feedback, text us at (0919)880-33-54
or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

IN THIS ISSUE

All-star fashion team

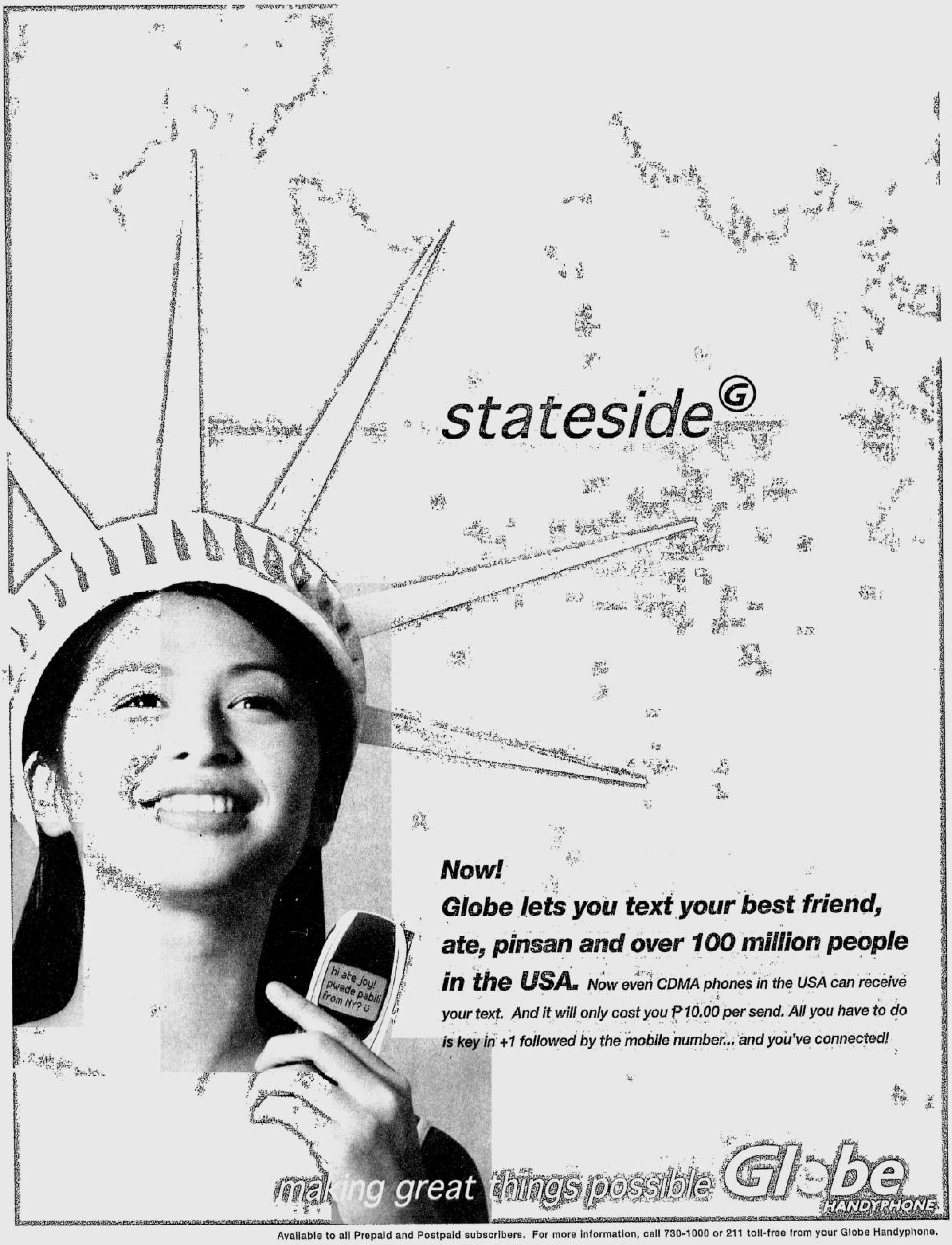
/G1

Whimsical bags

/I2

Restored to glory

/K1



stateside
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AGA and Charlene Muhlach

Faces that sell

TeeSaw

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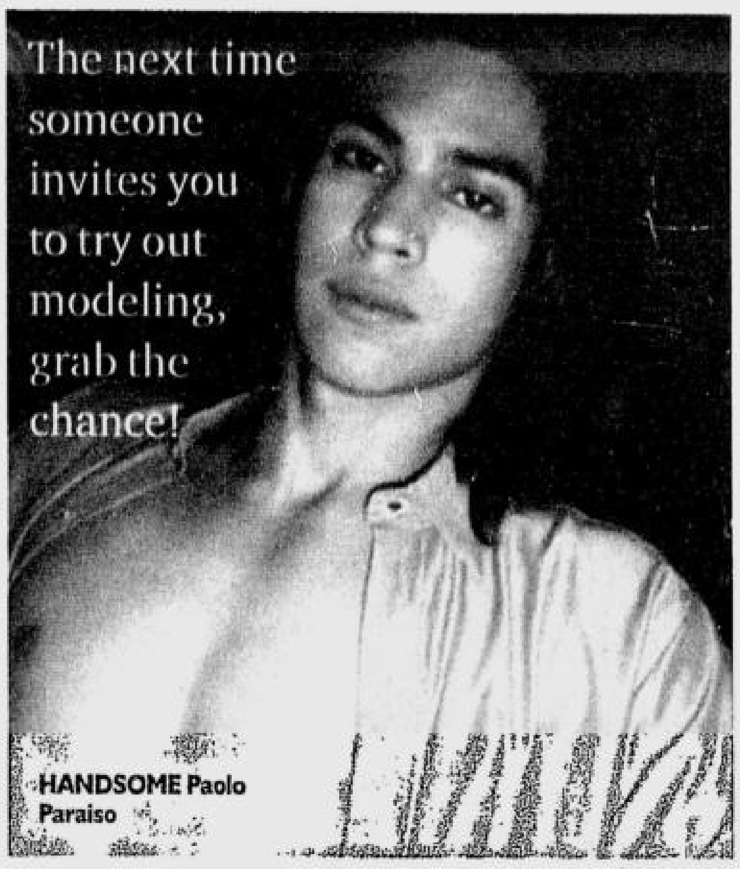


The next time someone invites you to try out modeling, grab the chance!

HANDSOME Paolo Paraiso

IF a legitimate talent scout ever approaches you and says, "You should be in print and television commercials," grab the opportunity. Carpe diem!

What it means is that you have a look and a face that can sell products and goods in the marketplace. Of late, I've recognized a lot of friends and acquaintances appearing suddenly in dailies, monthly rags, huge billboards and the small and big screens.

Bosom friend **Peachy Veneracion** has appeared in several television commercials, and her latest exposure is as "Dr. Mom" for a cough syrup.

The former beauty queen who would have been Miss World ages on screen, but it's a nice take-home pay for two to three days' work, including a rehearsal and go-see.

Chucho Martinez has been visible on the tube eating fried chicken and drinking some healthy fruit drink.

In real life, Chucho is a member of the national golf team of the Philippines and is a teaching pro at Southwoods. On weekends, he moonlights as club manager for El Cuento bar located at Glorietta.

The hottest hunk enticing all viewers to share a cola is ramp model **Paolo Paraiso.** He is so in-demand that ABS-CBN 2 has signed him as one of the Star Talents Batch 2003.

Ditto with kickboxer **Judah Paolo.** He was contracted under the same batch and, by circumstance, appeared in a rival cola beverage.

Chunchi Soler, who is a lawyer by profession and works with a telecommunications corporation, sells extra-strong beer on the telly. He is the guy who is approached by an hombre to please open his bottled ale.

His brother also appears on your plasma set stuck in an elevator with **Joyce Jimenez.**

Enrico Villanueva is the most visible rookie in the Philippine Basketball Association league. He made his mark as one of the Atenean players who beat La Salle for the championship, and is thus forever beloved by true-blue eagles.

AMANDA Griffin

After promoting a hair-raising gel for a popular fashion brand that has branched out to practically everything from jeans to briefs, Enrico has become a fashion byword.

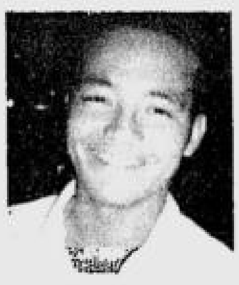
DIETHER Ocampo

Richard Nazareth is a veteran model, and his persistence has paid off. The shampoo commercial where he costars with on-screen bride **Grace Tagle** has been picked up for spot buys in other Asian countries. From what I've heard, the 60-second tearjerker will have six more segments.

CHUNCHI Soler

Paolo Relucio models part-time and is now portraying young father roles.

Celebrity endorsers



CHUCHO Martinez

In the celebrity circuit, the best-selling faces are also the ones on top of the multimedia business. **Dolphy, Sharon Cuneta, Aga and Charlene Muhlach, Regine Velasquez, Donita Rose, Martin Nievera, Pops Fernandez** and **Gary Valenciano** are constantly on advertisers' lists.

JUDAH Paolo

Of course, they are offered the best prices to lend their names to various products. However, beside spiraling upward costs, the problem with a celebrity endorser is that the product may rise and fall with the popularity of the persona, or vice versa.

CHESKA Garcia

The biggest fear is getting embroiled in *le scandale*. If things get bad, damage control sets in, or the ad is yanked out. The bottom line is, endorsements should sell products.

· Include **Ai-Ai de las Alas** in the list soonest, since she is fresh from her hit movie. It has raked in over a hundred million pesos, and imagine what she could sell given the exposure. Seize the day!

Advertising agencies and clients know their business. Every decision is researched, matched and tested. They are always on the lookout for fresh, positive faces like **Angel Aquino, Piolo Pascual** and **Christine Bersola.**

The youth market connects with **Sarah Meier, Amanda Griffin** and **Borgy Manotoc.**

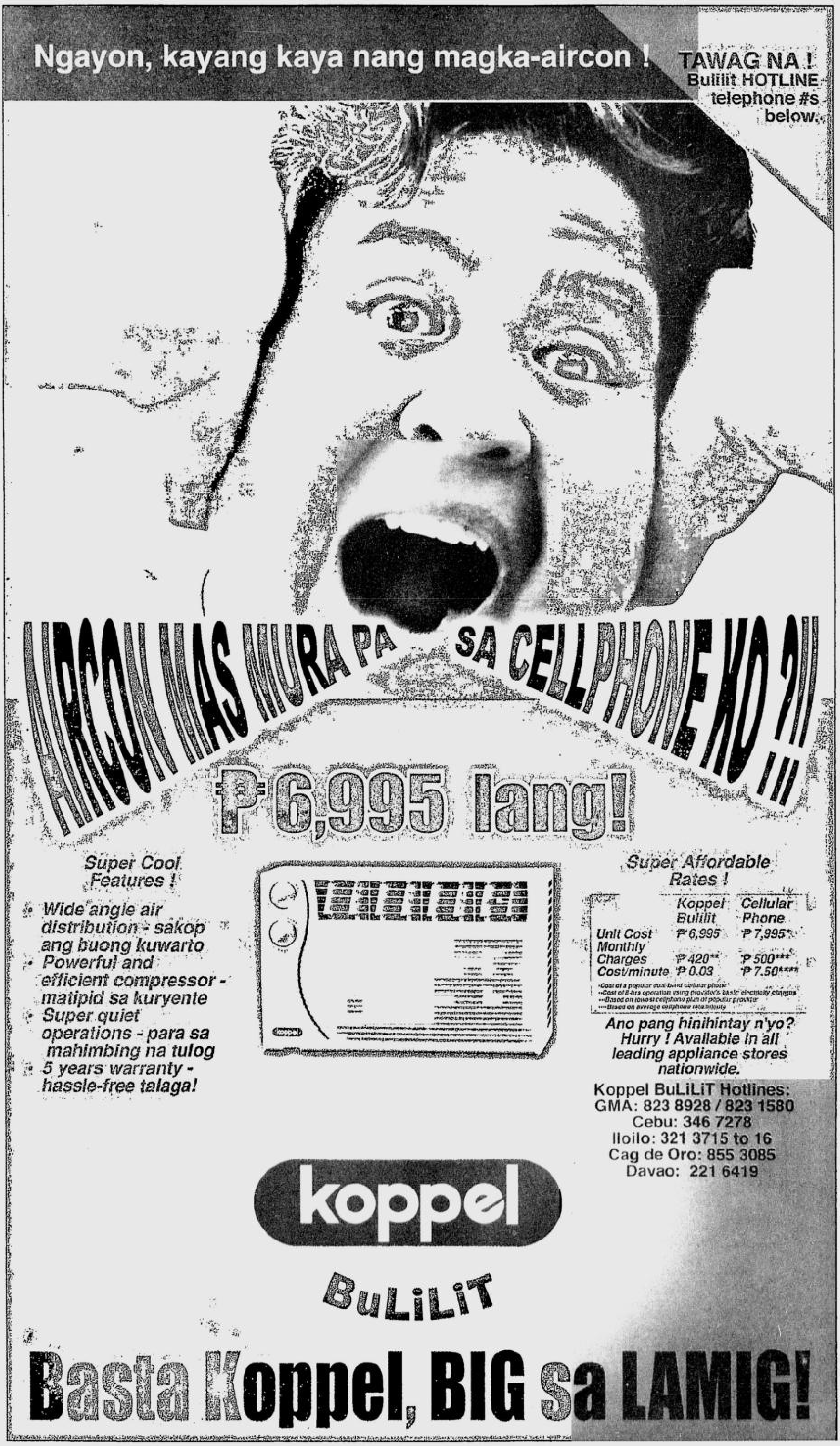
An effective television commercial works, period. I still remember a television commercial many years ago about this most charming boy with the cutest smile who shares his orange soft drink with classmates.

It was such an effective marketing tool that the lead, **RJ Ledesma**, appeared in a dozen subsequent ads.

A bit of history: some of those early moving pictures had been directed by legendary movie directors such as the late great **Lino Brocka** and the moody, talented **Ismael Bernal.**

As for RJ, he is still smiling on our small screen, corresponding for a morning show and running the real estate family business.

Some endorsers even end up in each other's arms, like **Lucy Torres** and **Richard Gomez.** The talent agent, **Sho Parpan**, who went to great lengths to convince Lucy to appear and promote her long, black hair now lives in Singapore with her hubby, probably still discovering talents, albeit for the international market. She has the gift.



Ngayon, kayang kaya nang magka-aircon !

TAWAG NA !
Bulilit HOTLINE telephone #s below.

AIRCON MAS MURA PA SA CELLPHONE KO ?!!

₱6,995 lang!

Super Cool Features !
- Wide angle air distribution - sakop ang buong kuwarto
- Powerful and efficient compressor - matipid sa kuryente
- Super quiet operations - para sa mahimbing na tulog
- 5 years warranty - hassle-free talaga!

Super Affordable Rates !

	Koppel Bulilit	Cellular Phone
Unit Cost	₱6,995	₱7,995*
Monthly Charges	₱420**	₱500***
Cost/minute	₱0.03	₱7.50****

*Cost of a popular dual band cellular phone
**Cost of 8-hrs operation using provider's basic electricity charges
***Based on lowest cellphone plan of popular provider
****Based on average cellphone rate/minute

Ano pang hinihintay n'yo? Hurry ! Available in all leading appliance stores nationwide.

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Hurry! Rush in before the school bell rings!

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Doritos
Taco and Nacho
Reg. P77.00
P73.15 180 g.

Lay's
Regular and Sour Cream & Onion
Reg. P77.00
P73.15 180 g.

Kobe
Krunch
Nat Sweet, Chili Onion and Zesty Seaweed
Reg. P19.75
P18.75 80 g.

Kobe
Krunch (Saver Pack 3's)
Nat Sweet, Chili Onion and Zesty Seaweed
Reg. P59.75
P54.25 /pack of 3s

Nestlé
Knick Knacks
Choc. Singles and Milk Singles
Reg. P4.25
P4.05 22 g.
Choco and Milk
Reg. P13.00
P12.45 70 g.

Kelloggs
Frosties
Reg. P71.00
P67.45 175g.
Corn Flakes
Reg. P53.50
P50.85 150g.

Dole
Fruit Bowls
Diced Peaches in light Syrup, Mandarin Orange in Light Syrup
Reg. P108.75
P95.00 /pack

Dole
Fruit Gel
Mandarin Orange
Reg. P95.00
P90.00 /pack
Diced Peaches in Strawberry gel
Reg. P108.75
P95.00 /pack

Sunkist
Quick Cool Pack
Orange, Apple, Grape, Lemonade, Tutti Frutti
Reg. P42.50
P40.50 200 ml.x10
Dalandan
Reg. P50.00
P47.50 200 ml.x10
Mango
Reg. P49.50
P47.50 200 ml.x10

Gandour
TofiLuk
Reg. P6.00
P5.70 32 g
Safari
Reg. P6.00
P5.70 10 g.
Pik One
Reg. P6.00
P5.70 24 g.
Derby Toffee Crunch Pik One, Caramel & Almond Crunch
Reg. P5.25
P5.00 25 g.
5 Derby Nougat and Caramel
Reg. P5.25
P5.00 23 g
Saudan Derby Peanut Crunch
Reg. P5.25
P5.00 20 g.
5 Derby Chocolate Nougat
Reg. P5.25
P5.00 21 g.

Great Selection at Low Prices Everyday | **Promo Runs: June 14-June 29, 2003**

Anlene
Active Hi-Calcium, Choco
Reg. P300.75
P286.65 1kg.

Zesto
Choco
Reg. P73.00
P69.50 125 ml.x10
Reg. P95.00
P90.50 200 ml.x10

Nestlé
Chamyto
Orange and Apple
Reg. P30.00
P28.00 80ml.
June 16-29

Coffeemate (Liquid)
Choco Raspberry, French Vanilla, Hazelnut, Irish Crème, Vanilla Caramel, Irish Crème Fat Free, Hazel Nut Fat Free, Irish Crème Fat Free
Reg. P119.50
P116.50 470ml.(16 oz.)
June 16-29
Only available at: Rockwell, Forbes Park, Makati, Katipunan

Lactum
1+ and 3+
Reg. P455.00
P446.00 1.8 kg.

Kraft
Cheez Whiz Plain
Reg. P44.20
P42.10 250g.
Cheez Whiz Pimiento
Reg. P46.30
P44.10 250g.

Dari Creme
Classic
Reg. P19.50
P18.99 225g.
June 16-29

Maggi
Tinola Cubes
Reg. P6.60
P6.30 22g.

Not included in the promo

Fathers Day Cake
P94.50 /pack

Kalayaan Cake
P25.00 /pack

Chocolate Praline
P32.95 /pack

Beef Tender Chuck
Steak
Reg. P172.50
P165.50 /kg.

Pork Chop
Skin On - Bone In
Reg. P141.99
P129.50 /kg.

Boneless Shank
Reg. P179.00
P160.50 /kg.

Pork Kasim
Skinless
Reg. P141.99
P125.50 /kg.

Pork Pata Hind
Whole
Reg. P122.99
P112.50 /kg.

Watermelon
Regular
Reg. P26.50
P23.00 /kg.
June 14-26

Camote Fruit
Reg. P17.75
P10.50 /kg.
June 20-26

Gabi Native
Reg. P44.25
P31.00 /kg.
June 14-19

Squash
Reg. P19.25
P12.00 /kg.
June 14-26

Eggplant
Reg. P59.00
P49.99 /kg.
June 14-19

Sitao
Reg. P29.50
P17.50 /kg.
June 20-26

Purefoods Hormel
Spiced Ham, Cooked Salami
Reg. P37.00
P35.99 250g.
June 16-29

Purefoods Hormel
Sweet Ham, Cooked Ham
Reg. P78.95
P76.99 250g.
June 16-29

Swift
Hotdog
Mighty Meaty Jumbo
Reg. P143.50
P140.50 1 kg.
June 16-29

Swift
Cheesy Franks
Jumbo
Reg. P112.25
P107.25 500g
June 16-29

CDO
Cheesedog regular
Reg. P68.25
P65.25 500 g.
June 16-22
Chicken Longaniza
Reg. P73.50
P70.50 500 g.
June 23-29

Purefoods
Chicken Nuggets
BBQ, Sour Cream and Classic
Reg. P51.50
P46.50 230 g.
June 16-29

[illegible]

Dalagang Bukid
Bilog
Reg. P156.25
P137.50 /kg.
June 14-19

Galunggong
Reg. P106.25
P93.75 /kg.
June 14-19

Salay Ginto
Reg. P100.00
P93.75 /kg.
June 20-26

Matambaka
Reg. P112.50
P99.99 /kg.
June 20-26

Dalagang Bukid
Lapad
Reg. P156.25
P137.50 /kg
June 14-19

Alumahan
Reg. P106.25
P99.99 /kg.
June 14-19

Talakitok
Reg. P175.00
P156.25 /kg.
June 14-19

Asuhos Big
Reg. P150.00
P137.50 /kg.
June 20-26

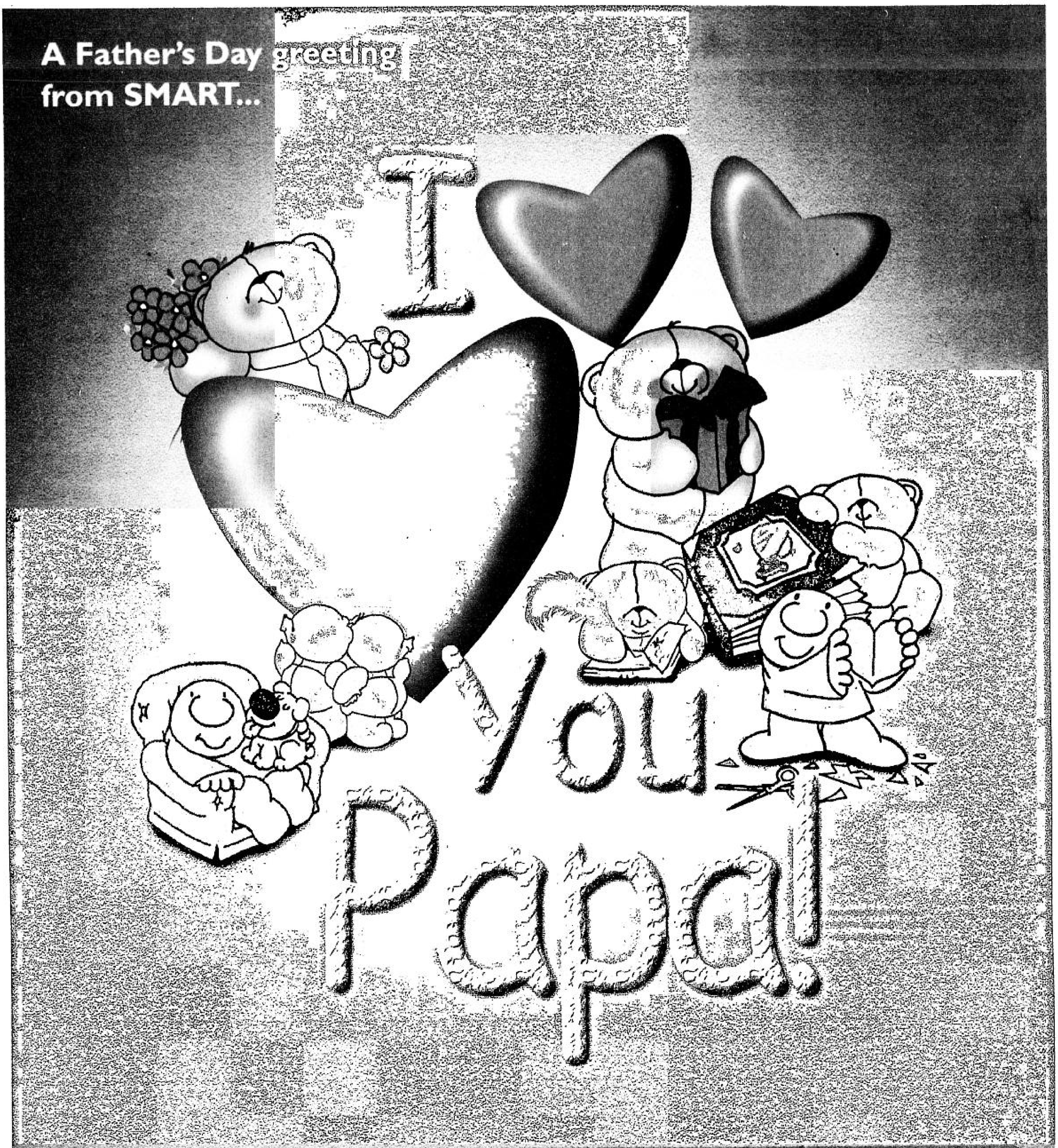
Rejoice
Shampoo
Balance Conditioning, Anti Dandruff Normal, Rich w/ Conditioner, Complete & Silky Black
Reg. P76.75
P72.90 200 ml.

Head & Shoulders
Shampoo
Refreshing Menthol, Anti Dandruff Normal, Smooth & Silky, Clean & Balanced and Anti Dandruff Silky Black
Reg. P82.50
P78.35 200 ml.

Tide
Powder Ultra with Bleach
Reg. P151.00
P144.65 1kg
Powder Ultra All Purpose, Nature Fresh
Reg. P108.75
P103.75 1kg

Makati 896-7771 | Cubao 911-2530 | Shangri-La Plaza 633-6422 | Harrison Plaza 521-4330 | Rockwell 898-1270 | Ali Mall 912-6125 | Farmers Plaza 911-1891 | San Antonio, Forbes Park 817-9327 | Alabang 807-1996 | Fairview 430-6095
Marikina 941-0970 | Star Mall 722-2714 | Sta. Rosa, Laguna (049) 541-1618 | Taytay 660-3110 | Libertad 834-2788 to 90 | Katipunan 928-3119 | Mercedes, Pasig 747-6222 | Bgrl 632-5881 | EDSA-Taft 833-6560 | Zabarte 961-4600

A Father's Day greeting
from SMART...



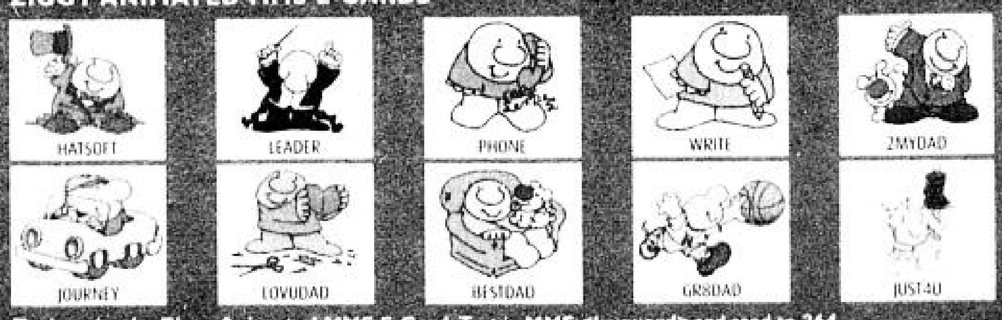
These Hallmark Hi and Ziggy Father's Day downloads are sure to help make your Dad's day. When you care enough to give the warmest, fastest, most colorful greeting to Dad, send some now.

COLORED MMS FUN PIX**

UR so kind
Ur So Kind
Thank You So Much
For You
For You 2
Thank You

To download a Colored MMS Fun Pix via WAP:
1) Visit the SMART WAP site.
2) Select Fun Pix, then click on Photos.
3) Click on the Hallmark category.
4) Click on Father's Day.
5) Choose phone type.
6) Select and download your chosen Fun Pix.

ZIGGY ANIMATED MMS E-CARDS**


HATSOFT
LEADER
PHONE
WRITE
2MYDAD
JOURNEY
LOVUDAD
BESTDAD
GR8DAD
JUST4U

To download a Ziggy Animated MMS E-Card: Text in MMS <keyword> and send to 264.

HALLMARK HI PICTURE MESSAGES

YOU ARE A GREAT Dad
GR8DAD1
UR A GREAT DAD
GR8DAD2
BEST DAD
BESTDAD
HAPPY DAD'S DAY!
HAPIDAD
HAPPY DAD'S DAY!
HAPIDAD1
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
HAPIDAD2
Cool Dad
COOLDAD
Super Dad!
SUPERDAD
HELLO DAD!
HELLODAD
DAD!
NO1DAD
LOVE YOU
LUVUDMOST
I really love u
IRLYLUVU
FOR YOU
FORYOU2
Thinking of you
THINKOFU2
I Love You
URDONE
Thank you!
THANKU3
You're a Hero!
URAHERO
thanks
TNXBEAR
THANKS A BUNCH
TNXBUNCH

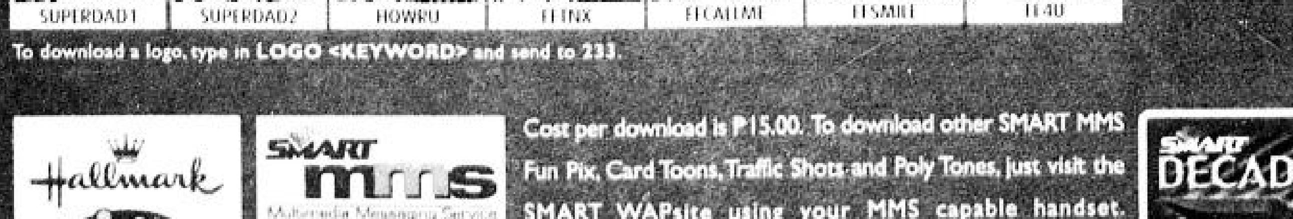
To download a picture message, type in PIC <KEYWORD> and send to 257.
To get a list of more Hallmark Hi picture messages, type in PIC HALLMARK and send to 257.

ZIGGY PICTURE MESSAGES

Happy Father's Day!
BESTDAD
Happy Father's Day!
GR8DAD
Happy Father's Day!
HAPPYDADDY
Happy Father's Day!
LUVUDAD
Happy Father's Day!
THANKSDAD

To download a Ziggy picture message, type in PIC <KEYWORD> and send to 264.

HALLMARK HI LOGOS


UR A GREAT DAD
GR8DAD1
GREAT DAD!
GR8DAD2
BEST DAD
BESTDAD
TOP DAD
TOPDAD
FUN DAD
FUNDAD
MIGHTY DAD!
MYTYDAD
COOL DAD
COOLDAD
NO1 DAD
NO1DAD
No.1 Dad
SUPERDAD1
SUPER DAD!
SUPERDAD2
How are you?
HOWRU
Thanks
FFTNX
FFCALLME
FFSMILE
FF4U

To download a logo, type in LOGO <KEYWORD> and send to 233.

Hallmark
hi

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LIFESTYLE

Trend Spotting

How can a guy as well-known as he is ever keep a secret?

A few more secrets of Gary V.

GARY Valenciano isn't just one of the most famous pop stars in the country, he is also one of the most high-profile dads around.

His two sons are following in his footsteps, as Paolo takes to the theater and Gabriel dances up a storm every time he guests in his dad's concerts.

On Father's Day, Gary and Gabriel will entertain for free at the Glorietta Park, performing pop favorites and giving away tool kits from True Value gift certificates and gifts from ADI Telecom, Aubar, Ayala Informatics Computer Institute, Braun Buffel, Café Havana, Furusato, Globelines, Globe Telecom-Hub, Gold's Gym, Ideal Vision Center, Kaya Express, Lising Crafts, M Lhuillier Pawnshop, Picture City, Pink and Blue Soda, Restoratino, Sentro 1771 and Streetlife Remix.

With a career and a family this well-known, how can Mr. Pure Energy ever be anonymous?

Simple. By keeping pop secrets. Gary V. does have some

A FEW/E2

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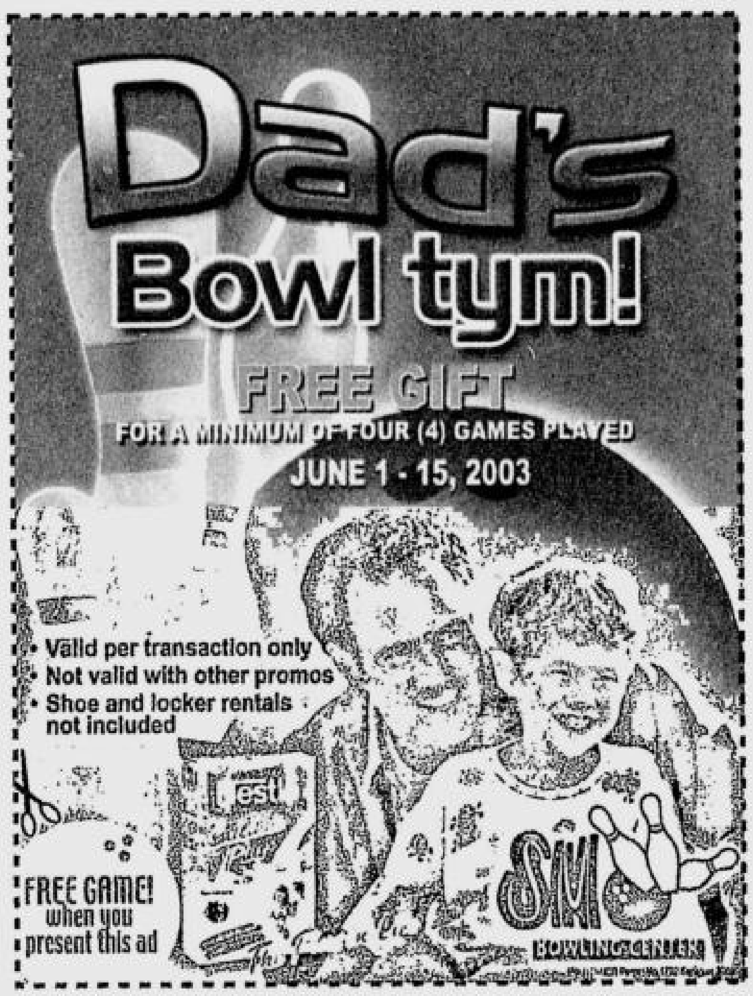
CHEF & BREWER	ROUTE 70	SABOR LATINO
	HAPPY HOUR: 3PM-8PM	HAPPY HOUR: 3PM-8PM
Cowboy Grill	Cowboy Grill	Cowboy Grill
MABINI ☎ 525.1474	MISSMO PHYRIGIAN/ZEST	NO ENTRANCE FEE
MALATE ☎ 521.8143	MUSIC CIRCUIT MEN OPPOSE	NO ENTRANCE FEE
NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757	BLAKDYAK STREETLIFE	HEADWORKS
BIÑAN ☎ (049)511.7268	POWER ON PERFECT STRANGERS	NO ENTRANCE FEE
Partyplace SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA ☎ (045)961.3360	D I G	JUNE 14- PAOLO SANTOS JUNE 20- THE DAWN JUNE 27- ANDREW E. & MAUI TAYLOR
TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S
JUPITER ☎ 890.4735	Q M B FIRST SIGHT	NO ENTRANCE FEE
REMEDIOS ☎ 522.0429	VERSE 2 ENTICE	NO ENTRANCE FEE
TOMAS MORATO ☎ 371.1473	RHYTHM ACE TONEWORKS	NO ENTRANCE FEE

JUNE 13 FRIDAY 422-9877



Dad's Bowl tym!
FREE GIFT
FOR A MINIMUM OF FOUR (4) GAMES PLAYED
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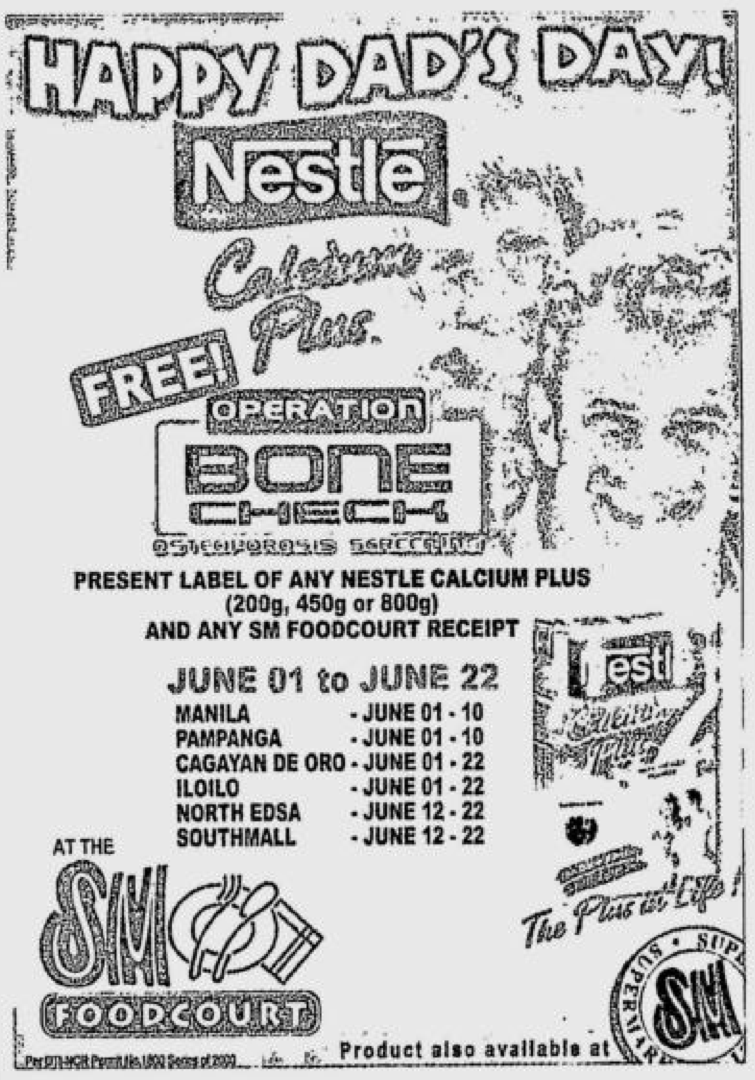
• Valid per transaction only
• Not valid with other promos
• Shoe and locker rentals not included
FREE GAME! when you present this ad
SM BOWLING CENTER



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OSTEOPOROSIS SCREENING
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(200g, 450g or 800g)
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JUNE 01 to JUNE 22

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CAGAYAN DE ORO	- JUNE 01 - 22
ILOILO	- JUNE 01 - 22
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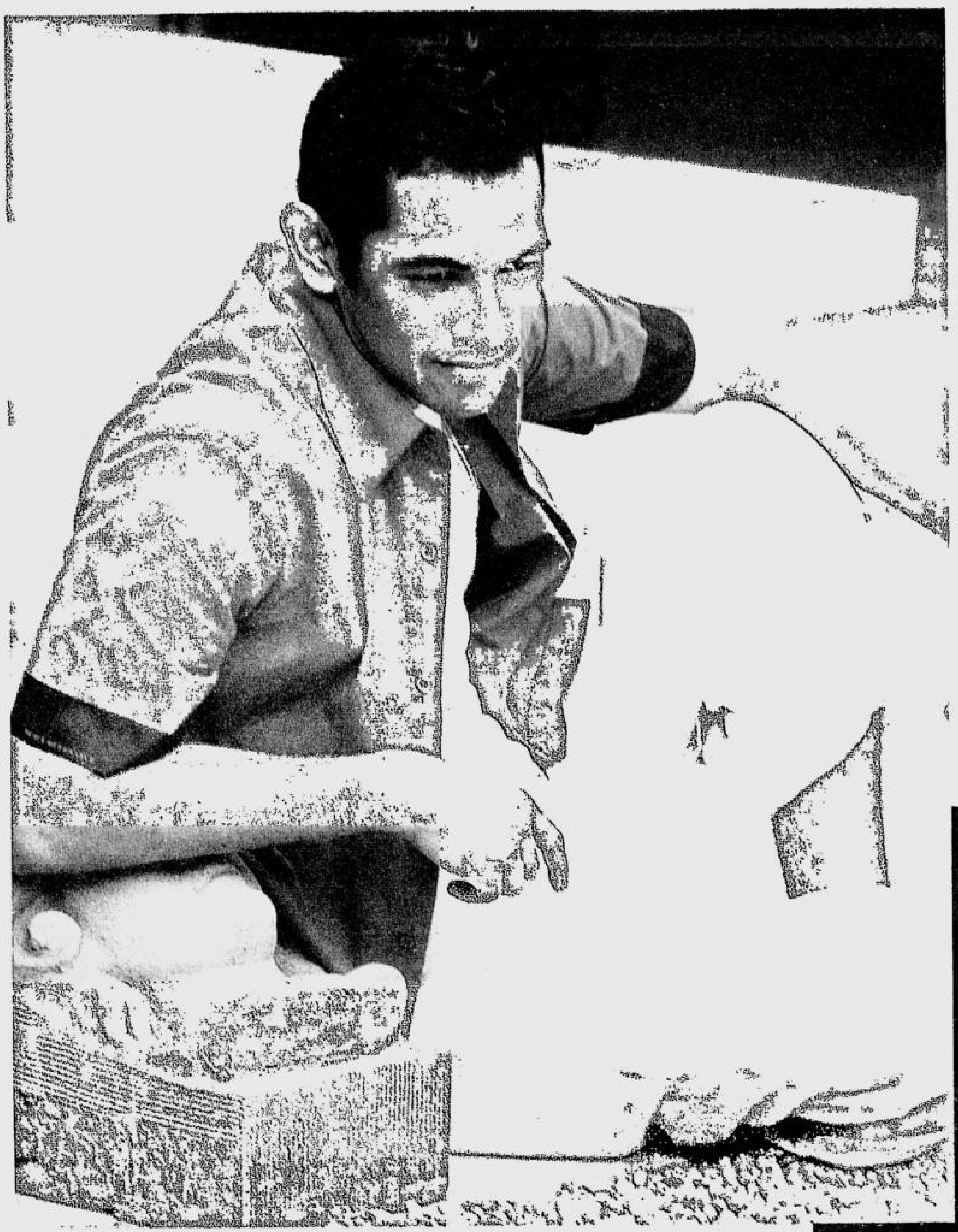


POLO short sleeves, P699

MEN'S shirt ¾ sleeves, P449; men's khaki pants, P749

A few more secrets of Gary V.

POLO short sleeves with embroidery, P749; men's pants, P749

POLO short sleeves, P749

From page E1

pop secrets of his own.

Did you know, for example, that it doesn't make any difference to Gary if he is singing to an audience of 10 or 10,000?

As long as he feels a connection with his audience through his music, Gary performs at top form.

Did you also know that Gary's secret wish is to be able to reinvent his music, as long as his fans would allow it?

He once said that one of the difficult things about being a pop star for two decades is that his music tends to follow a tried-and-tested formula. He actually keeps most of his inventive and innovative compositions personal, known only to his family and close friends.

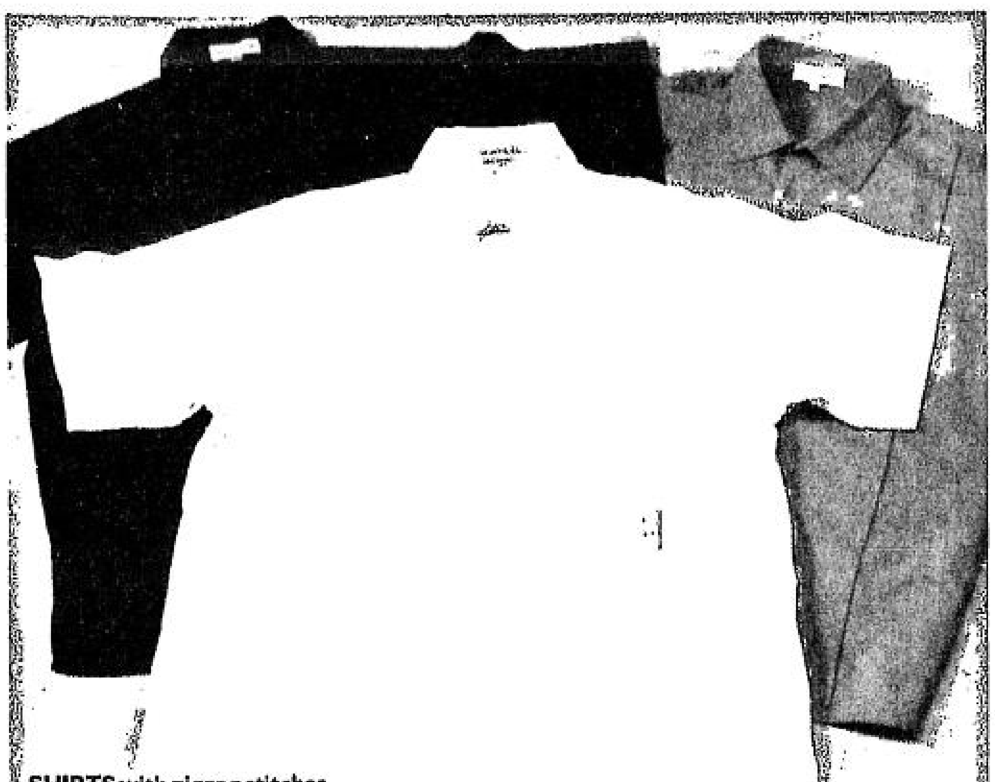
And did you know that though this singer was once dubbed the "Michael Jackson of the Philippines" because of his talent in song and dance, he'd rather be remembered as a performer of inspirational songs and an instrument of God?

Finally, did you know that though he was once known for his outrageous outfits in the '80s—padded jackets, baggy jeans, an Afro hair—he now prefers to be dressed in T-shirts, jeans and jackets that carry the brand Anonymous?

Unlike these facts, his ability to make even the most basic outfits uniquely Gary V. is not a well-kept secret. That's why he's now one of the image models of Anonymous, one of the country's top retail stores.

POLO short sleeves with stitch design, P749; men's pants, P749

CLOTHES : ANONYMOUS
PHOTOS .
JOANNE ZAPANTA-ANDRADA
MAKEUP : DENNY TAN



SHIRTS with zigzag stitches

Right gifts for special men

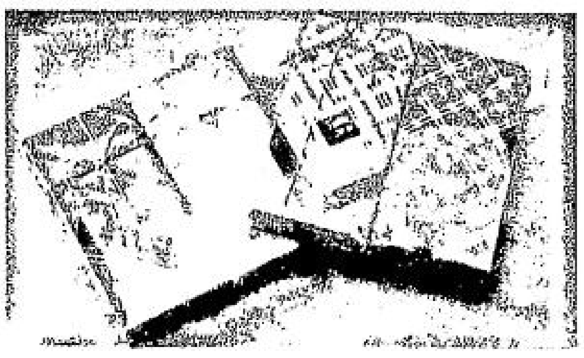
ROBINSONS Department Store (RDS) offers a variety of gift ideas to help dad feel truly special on Father's Day.

Wrap up a handkerchief or tie, or create a whole business ensemble for him. With the choices available at RDS, you're sure to find the perfect color, cut and fabric for his line of work and personality.

If you want something practical and useful, RDS offers mugs, wallets, towels and desk organizers.

For more options at the best prices, visit the RDS branch nearest you.

WALLETS are practical gift items for dads.



TOWEL and handkerchief sets

Casual best for Father's Day

DOCKERS, the definitive source of business casuals, gives the modern dad a fresh new perspective and gives moms more reasons to be excited about the man of the house.

Dockers has classic designs in the latest technology, with nostalgic detail in modern shapes.

The Dockers '70s inspired shirt and Mobile pants fuse form and function. The Mobile pants has multiple hidden pockets. The shirt gives off an ethnic look.

Dockers also has cool linen knits, zip front shirts and classic khakis that provide that stand-out look for fathers. Not too shabby, not too uptight, just the perfect mix for today's fashionable dad.

The Dockers dress shirt with multiple stripes and wrinkle-free linen-blend pants provide a contemporary look fit for the office and a nightcap.

DOCKERS has classic designs for dads.

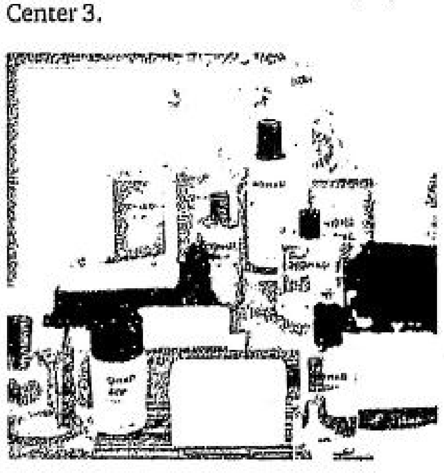
No-fuss male toiletries

CRABTREE & Evelyn offers the perfect gift for dad with its Nomad toiletries line.

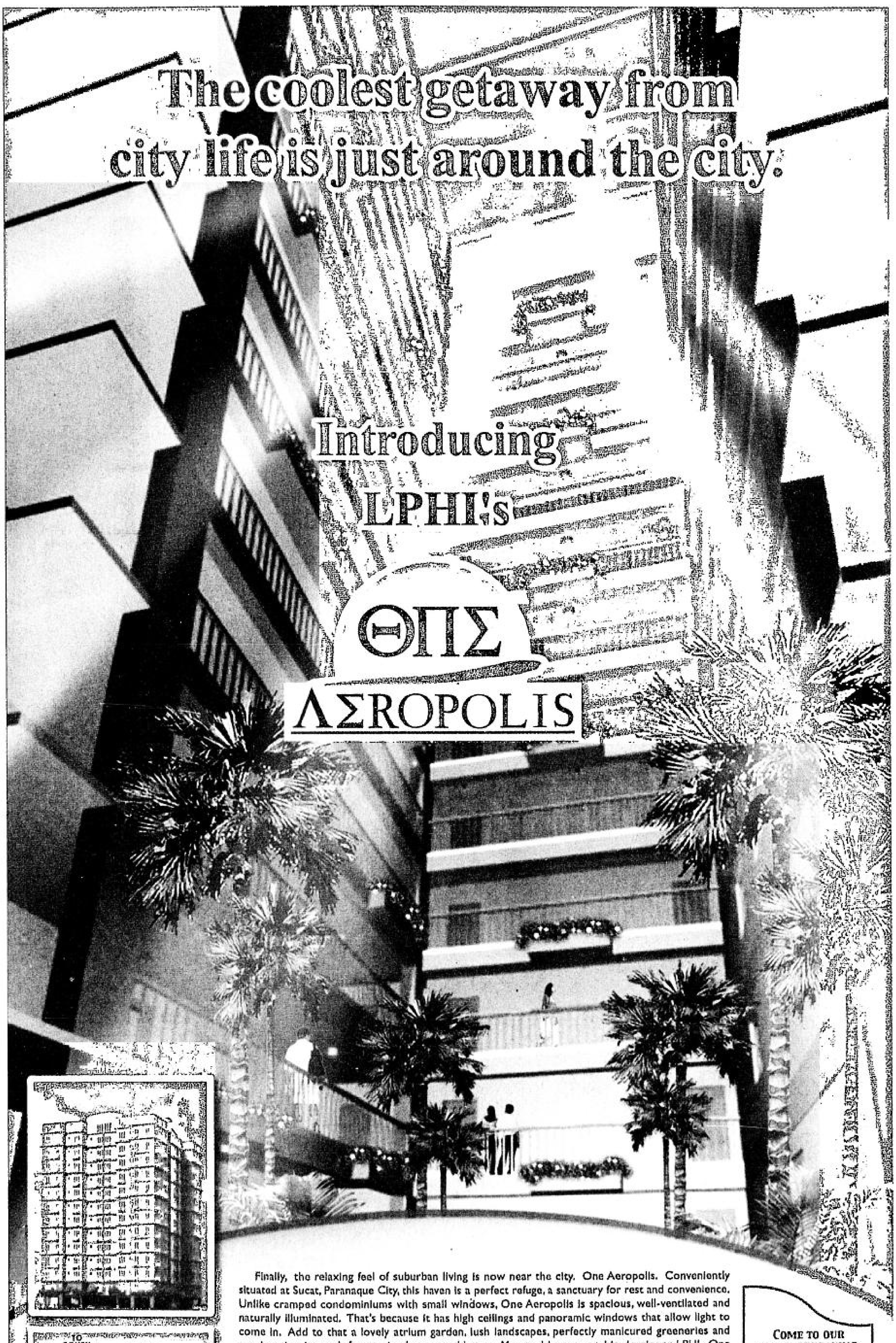
Nomad promotes "no-fuss male grooming." It's a streamlined range of easy-to-use skin care essentials that cater to men's complete bathing and shaving needs.

These products are made from the finest beneficial natural extracts: teak and sandalwood, citron, ginger and green bamboo.

Available in all Crabtree & Evelyn outlets at the 2/L SM Megamall Bldg. A, 2/L Padre Faura Wing of Robinsons Place Manila and at the Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center 3.



NOMAD for no-fuss male grooming



Finally, the relaxing feel of suburban living is now near the city. One Aeropolis. Conveniently situated at Sucat, Paranaque City, this haven is a perfect refuge, a sanctuary for rest and convenience. Unlike cramped condominiums with small windows, One Aeropolis is spacious, well-ventilated and naturally illuminated. That's because it has high ceilings and panoramic windows that allow light to come in. Add to that a lovely atrium garden, lush landscapes, perfectly manicured greeneries and spacious jogging path for an airy, breezy ambience. Managed by a reputable developer LPHI, One Aeropolis is accessible to schools, CBD and major commercial establishments. All these for a price that's surprisingly below one million pesos.

For your peace of mind, One Aeropolis also gives you warranties on structure and facilities, efficient maintenance services and a tight 24-hour security. Comfortable. Affordable. All these...at One Aeropolis.

COME TO OUR
GROUNDBREAKING
CEREMONY
JUNE 15
9AM
AND ENJOY
SPECIAL OFFERS.

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or email us at mktg.lphi@ayalaland.com.ph

ΘΠΣ
ΛΣROPOLIS
Now the sky is within reach.

Cars, video races and other treats for Dad

RUSTAN'S, the country's premier luxury department store, has planned a fun-filled weekend to honor dads of all ages this Father's Day.

An exhibit and parade of rare sports cars on June 13 kicks off the event.

The cars will be assembled at Rustan's flagship store at the Ayala Center in Makati and will cruise around Ayala Avenue until Buendia Avenue before returning and parking at the front entrance of the store, where they will be on display for public view all day on Friday.

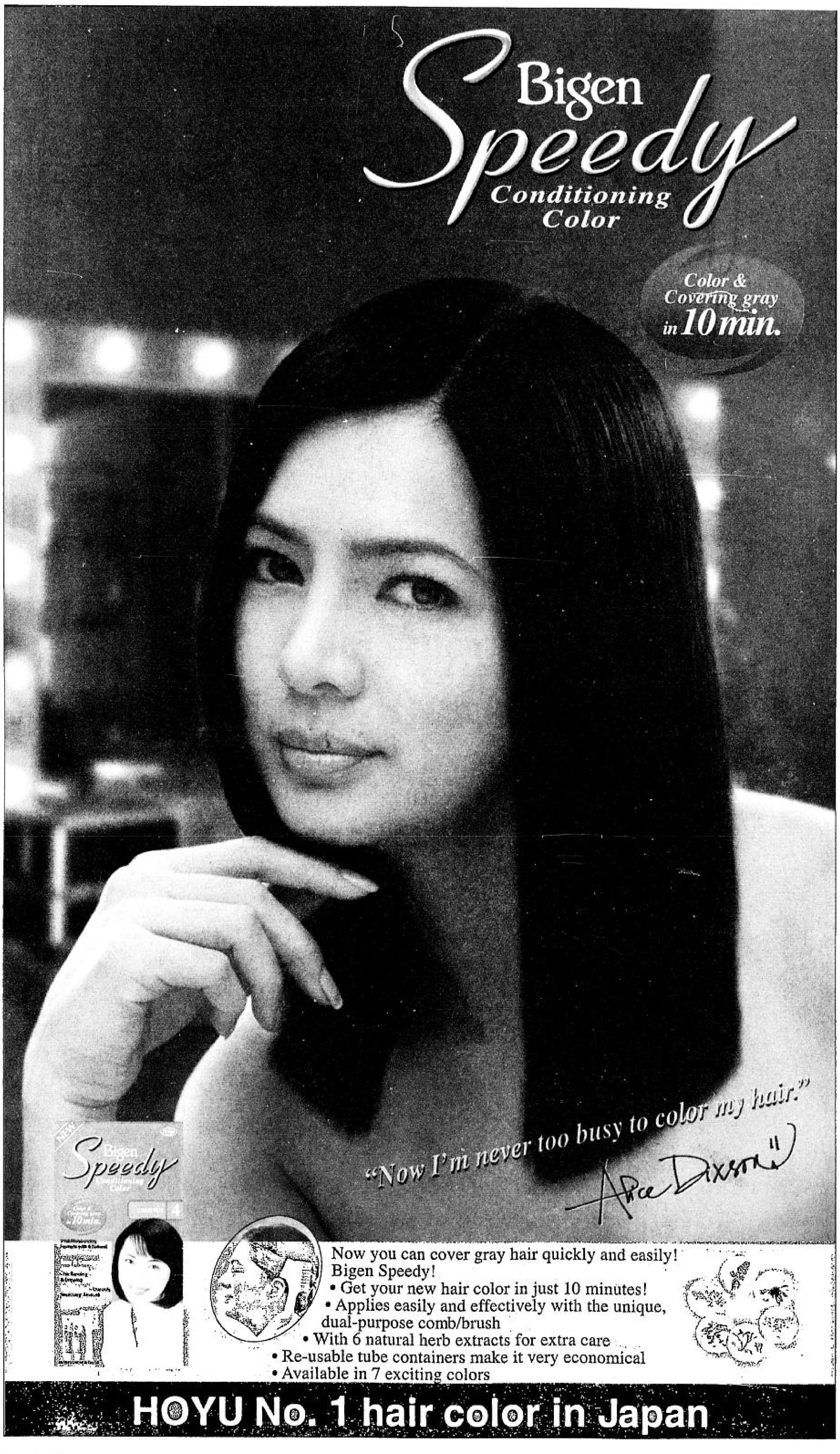
At the end of the parade, members of the Manila Sports Car Club, who comprise the exhibitors, will choose among themselves the Best Car award. The award will be given to the lucky car owner on Sunday, June 15 at the club's breakfast meeting, which will be hosted by Rustan's Makati.

Another special Father's Day treat is a video simulation racing game at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La and Alabang Town Center branches.

A minimum purchase of P2,500 at the Men's Department or any purchase of men's fragrance for the same amount qualifies one to participate in the video simulation race.

The race will be on for three days at the three Rustan's branches.

The overall champion of the event will win a Sony Playstation and get a chance to participate in the Batangas Racing Circuit' video race which will be organized by C! Magazine.


Bigen Speedy Conditioning Color

Color & Covering gray in 10 min.

"Now I'm never too busy to color my hair." Alice Dixson

Now you can cover gray hair quickly and easily!
Bigen Speedy!
- Get your new hair color in just 10 minutes!
- Applies easily and effectively with the unique, dual-purpose comb/brush
- With 6 natural herb extracts for extra care
- Re-usable tube containers make it very economical
- Available in 7 exciting colors

HOYU No. 1 hair color in Japan

A week for Dad

TIMEZONE doesn't have a Father's Day. What it has is Father's Week.

Until June 15, sons who will have an action-packed day at Timezone can bring dad a special yummy treat as gift.

In cooperation with the casual Japanese restaurant Teriyaki Boy, every P500 new Powercard or reload of the same amount entitles customers to a free pork dumpling.

Participating Timezone branches include those located at Glorietta 4 and 2, Greenbelt 3 and Greenhills.

Pork dumpling treats for dads can be redeemed at the following Teriyaki Boy outlets: Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Madison Square Greenhills and Tomas Morato, Quezon City.

PORK dumpling from Teriyaki Boy, a treat from Timezone

TIMEZONE arcade

More fun at half the price

DREAMSCAPE in Robinsons Galleria offers dads a special Father's Day treat. Every Dream Day ticket entitles fathers to a 50-percent discount on their next Dream Day coupon.

The promo is applicable for walk-in guests and is not valid for birthday parties, school field trips, purchase of gift tickets and group sales.

Dreamscape is a fully air conditioned indoor amusement center under Robinsons Recreation Corp. (RRC).

Dreamscape rides include Super Sonic V roller coaster, Thunder Cruiser, Roaring Rapids, the Speed Bugs bump cars, Grand Parade carousel, Wild Wild Wheels, Dream Wheel and Rainbow Racers.

Call 636-2911.

RATED GP
GUISADO NA, MAY PATATAS PA

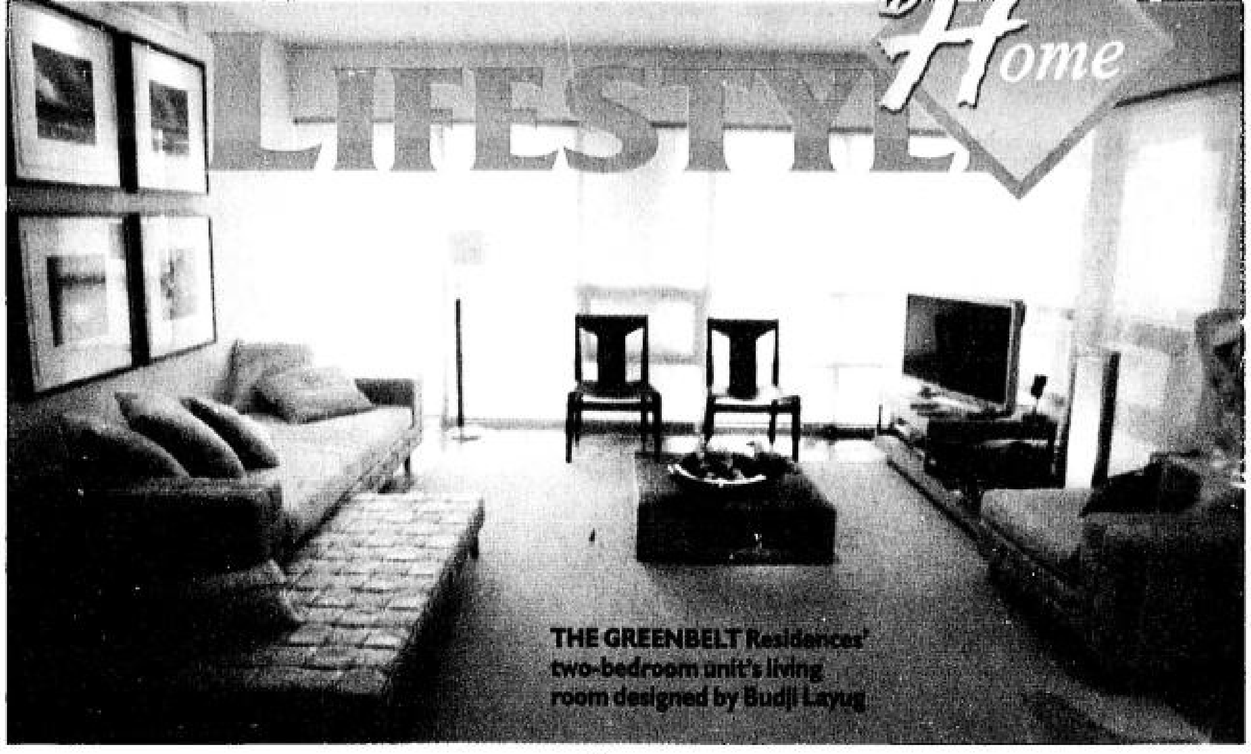
Masarap.
Masustansya.
Mas Nakakabusog.

Napakasarap Maging Praktikal!

NEW! PUREFOODS CARNE NORTE GUISADO CON PATATAS

San Miguel Purefoods

LIFESTYLE
Home



THE GREENBELT Residences' two-bedroom unit's living room designed by Budji Layug

Green living in the concrete jungle

Story on page F4

Story on page F4

WHAT'S ON
at Robinsons

CARLOS AGASSI

Groove to the music of the Emir of Rap, live as actor-rapper Carlos Agassi brings the house down at Robinsons Place Novaliches to promote his latest album.

June 15 Sunday, [illegible] PM
Central Atrium
Robinsons Place Novaliches

ROBINSONS Place
NOVALICHES

Collectiones New York 70% Discount
Father's Day Special Sale!
June 13-15, 2003
Cut this coupon to avail 70% discount

	BEFORE	NOW
Polo Ralph Lauren *(Ladies and Men)*	P1,995	P599.99
Lacoste *(Ladies and Men)*	P1,595	P799.99
Moschino Long Sleeves *(Ladies)*	P1,599	P799.99
YSL *(Long Sleeves)*	P1,995	P399.99
Faconable, Cello *(Short Sleeves)*	P1,999.99	P799.99
Burberry, Diesel, Versace, Calvin Klein, Nike, Boss, Giorgio Armani *(T-Shirt)*	P1,295	P599.99
Dunhill, Versace, Emporio Armani,YSL, Mario Armani, Pierre Cardin Valentino, *(Neckties)*	P2,995	P399.99
Prada, Louis Vuitton, Ferregamo,Hermes, Gucci, Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger *(Bags)*	P5,995	P999.99
Dunhill, Hugo Boss, Gucci, YSL Ferragamo, Versace *(Belts)*	P2,995	P499.99
Ferragamo, Prada, Louis Vuitton,Gucci, Dunhill, Ralph Lauren *(Wallets)*	P3,995	P599.99
Gucci, Channel, YSL, Versache Oakley, Prada*(Sunglasses)*	P6,000	P599.99

G/F Glorietta 3 135 Ayala Center Makati in bet. Ritratto & McDonalds, Tower Record Entrance Tel.Nos.893-3310 / 813-1133 Per DTI NCR permit No.AI-228 Series 2003

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Valid from June 13 - 22. See posters for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2520 Series of 2003

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Make a meditation garden

SERAPION S. Metilla, plant art expert, will conduct a seminar-workshop on how to make a mini waterfall zen garden June 20-22. A mini-waterfall Zen garden will help intensify the effects of praying or meditating that, according to psychiatrist Marilyn Baetz, helps reduce mental stress.

Sessions will be held daily 1-6 p.m. at Mett's School of Plant Arts, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank Environmental Center, corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. All materials will be provided including snacks.

Registration is now open. Call 939-4593.

THE FOURTH group of graduates of the mini waterfall zen garden seminar display their work. From left: Luming Florencio San Juan of San Mateo, Rizal; Ma. Aida Erestain of Sorsogon; Esperanza Pili Sanchez of Bataan; Ernesto Crisostomo Lim of Subic; Angelina and Arsenio Tang Panuelos of Tondo; and Rosalinda Lopez Paday of Cainta, Rizal. Behind them is Serapion S. Metilla, instructor.

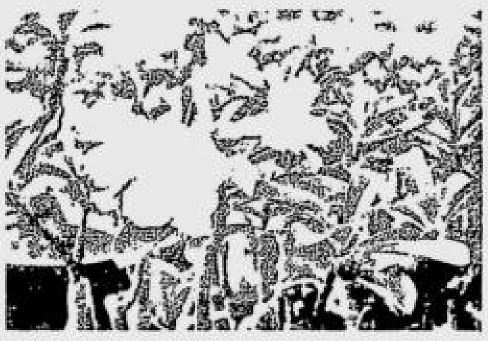
Give dad a new hobby

PURIFICACION Orchids and Ornamentals Inc. at the Manila Seedling Bank Compound, Edsa corner Quezon avenue, QC, will pay tribute to fathers with a weekend sale of plants that daddies might like to have in the office, study or work room.

Dads can start a collection like tillandsias to help him relax after a tough day. They're easy to grow and propagate.

Plants on sale include orchids, cacti, bromeliads, palms, fortune plants, philodendrons, etc. There are also ferns, bonsai materials and even culinary herbs for dads who love to cook.

Discounts of as much as 25 percent are being given.



ADENIUM obesum

DAD
Thanks for teaching me about life and for being my friend

DAD'S DAY!
Honor your father this Father's Day with a Papemelroti plaque that'll show how much you care for him. Inscribed is a message of thanks for teaching and for "being a friend." It's perfect for dad's desk and workplace. Available at Papemelroti stores in leading malls.

Flowers are for dads, too

TO CELEBRATE Dad's special role in the family, The Flower Farm is offering a line of special flower and gift arrangements for Father's Day.

Dads will surely be happy to receive The Flower Farm's creative gift ideas such as: Fore! Dad, a floral arrangement with golf balls and tees; Good Read, an assortment of magazines neatly bundled with a colorful floral offering of wild peppers; Better with Age, a collection of unique plants with a bottle of fine wine.

For dads with a green thumb, there are herbs, bonsai or flowering plants that he can add to his garden.

Customers can specify gift items to go with an arrangement of flowers or plants.

The Flower Farm Corporation, has shops at Rada Street, Makati (tel. 815-6665), San Juan (722-7122), Alabang Town Center (809-4612), and Glorietta 4 (752-7206).

2-week garden festival opens

KEEGAN Myers, with Festival Supermall, will hold a flower and garden festival, Garden Blessings.

The two-week affair will showcase the best plants from different parts of the country including orchids, ferns, herbs and medicinal plants, palms, bonsai, dish gardens, bromeliads and other garden materials.

Pots and vases, fertilizers and potting media, among others, will also be on sale during the event.

Call Malou at 638-9608 or 687-4652.

Robinsons Supermarket
WOW! Low, Low, Low Prices!
Great discounts for the greatest Dad!
June 13 - 26, 2003

HEAD & SHOULDERS Smooth & Silky 200ml P76.50 each Reg. Price 82.50
PANTENE Conditioner Smooth & Silky 200ml P86.75 each Reg. Price 92.75
COLGATE Triple Action 150ml P55.50 each Reg. Price 59.50
COLGATE Total Whitening 160g P56.50 each Reg. Price 62.25
SUPERSAVERS Bathroom Tissue 2ply 400 sheets (4's) P39.00 /pack Reg. Price 41.50
LAYS Regular 180g P69.00 each Reg. Price 72.00
DORITOS Nacho 180g P69.00 each Reg. Price 72.00
TOBLERONE Milk 50g P26.00 each Reg. Price 28.75
TOBLERONE Milk Trio 35g (3's) P48.00 /pack Reg. Price 51.95
SUPERSAVERS Bathroom Tissue 2ply 400 sheets (9's) P87.00 /pack Reg. Price 93.00
FITA Crackers 80g P6.40 each Reg. Price 6.75
BREAD STIX 35g P3.90 each Reg. Price 4.00
LADY'S CHOICE Tuna Spread 220ml P45.80 each Reg. Price 48.25
LADY'S CHOICE Ham Spread 470ml P99.00 each Reg. Price 105.00
SWIFT Juicy Carne Norte 150g P15.90 each Reg. Price 16.50
MEGA Sardines in Tomato/ Tomato with Chili Sauce 155g P7.50 each Reg. Price 7.75
SWIFT Juicy Corned Beef 175g P21.90 each Reg. Price 22.75
MEGA Sardines in Hot Oil 155g P8.25 each Reg. Price 8.50
SILVER SWAN Sukang Puti 1000ml P16.50 each Reg. Price 17.50
SILVER SWAN Soy Sauce 1000ml P19.00 each Reg. Price 20.25
JOLLY Canola Oil 1liter P78.00 each Reg. Price 81.50
WOW! FRESH for LESS
JOLLY Mushroom Pieces & Stem 400g P23.00 each Reg. Price 24.00
PORK TERIYAKI P155.00 /kg
BEEF TAPA 225.00 /kg
PORK CHOP Barbeque 150.00 /kg
SUPERMANOK Fresh Drumstick P90.75 /kg Reg. Price 95.50
SUPER SAVERS Fresh Eggs (Large) P37.75 /doz
LAPU-LAPU** (Regular) P229.00 /kg Reg. Price 250.00
ALUMAHAN** P85.00 /kg Reg. Price 100.00
PUREFOODS Beefies Reg. 1Kilo w/ free catsup P96.50 /pack Reg. Price 98.75
PUREFOODS Honey Cured Bacon Sliced 200g P62.50 /pack Reg. Price 64.75
CHICKEN HAMONADO P190.00 /kg
GARDENIA Pandesal P20.90 /pack Reg. Price 22.00
GARDENIA U.S. Reg. Slice 600g P32.30 /pack Reg. Price 34.00
TAIWAN GARLIC* P26.00 /kg Reg. Price 28.00
AMPALAYA* P40.00 /kg Reg. Price 42.00
BAGUIO WOMBOK* P40.00 /kg Reg. Price 42.00
* Not available in Tutuban Center branch
** Not available in Tutuban Center and Malabon Citisquare branches
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• Robinsons Place Manila • Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños • Metropolis Star Alabang • Circle C Center, Congressional • Nepo Mall, Angeles, Pampanga
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2426 Series of 2003

Nature lessons from Narda Capuyan

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

As trustees of the earth's bounties, she says, we must take care of them

EVERY day, Narda Capuyan goes out of her home in Sagada, in the Cordilleras, to see to the trees and plants in her 30-ha farm.

And every day, she says, she thanks her Creator for all the bounty she and her family have received through the years. She gives thanks in the manner of her Kankan-ey ancestors as well as the more recent spiritual practices she has adopted.

They come as no surprise to those who know how she has kept in step with nature, and nature with her. Their farm, she likes to say, is the only truly green spot in the area.

Capuyan has come to be known as a weaver of Cordillera dreams simply because, though a registered nurse, she chose to work with looms in the region of her birth.

She is Kankan-ey, meaning, from Bontoc, she explains, and her husband, Wilson, another nature lover, is also from Sagada.

From her looms have come her now well-known "Narda" creations—beautiful hand-woven household items and women's apparel.

Recently, she expanded her horizons by making use of the scrap wood and roots from her farm where her husband has planted *narra*, mahogany, pine and even bamboo (he also pioneered citrus planting). From those trees, she has turned her focus on furniture-making.

On the eve of Holy Week last April, she took time out from her farm and furniture factory to attend the opening of Camp John Hay's Art Park, where art work and handicraft, mostly from Cordillera folk, were on display.

It was an opportunity for us to talk to her about developments in her life and work, and she was glad to open up.

Spiritual leanings

Always concerned about the Cordillera people, she has set up a foundation called Winaca ("waca" in Sagada is a morning glory vine used to bind posts, baskets and other items) and it is this binding—and bonding—that they hope to engender among people so they can help one another.

Her deep spiritual leanings have much to do with the way she regards her surroundings—the trees, butterflies, birds and other wildlife with whom she shares her farm.

As there is no pollution to contend with, airborne diseases do not thrive, something well worth noting in these days of virus scares. She believes, moreover, that nature is the great healer, the positive energy in the forest.

Necessary serenity

Narda may be a registered nurse, but somewhere in her professional life she decided she'd go back to her roots—literally, the farm, where she could make use of the cornucopia of green around her.

So she took out the hand looms and wove beautiful Cordillera patterns on dresses, tablecloths, runners, napkins, even branching out to bags and shawls.

As she did so, she taught her neighbors, even those as far as Kalinga, to do the same.

Evidently she hasn't stopped looking around, for with the healthy growth of their forest, she found there was much that could be done, and so the carpentry began.

She now concentrates on interiors of hotels and offices, and has complete coordinated lines for their needs. There are architects and interior designers with whom she consults for this purpose.

Her factory and house are in Tublai, Mt. Acop, the municipality after La Trinidad. The locale is just right to bring up a family and is especially perfect for her because she gets to meditate a lot (Narda is a Brahma Kumaris member).

Meditation, she adds, helps her in creative work, and gives her the necessary serenity with which to cope with the stresses of daily life and work.

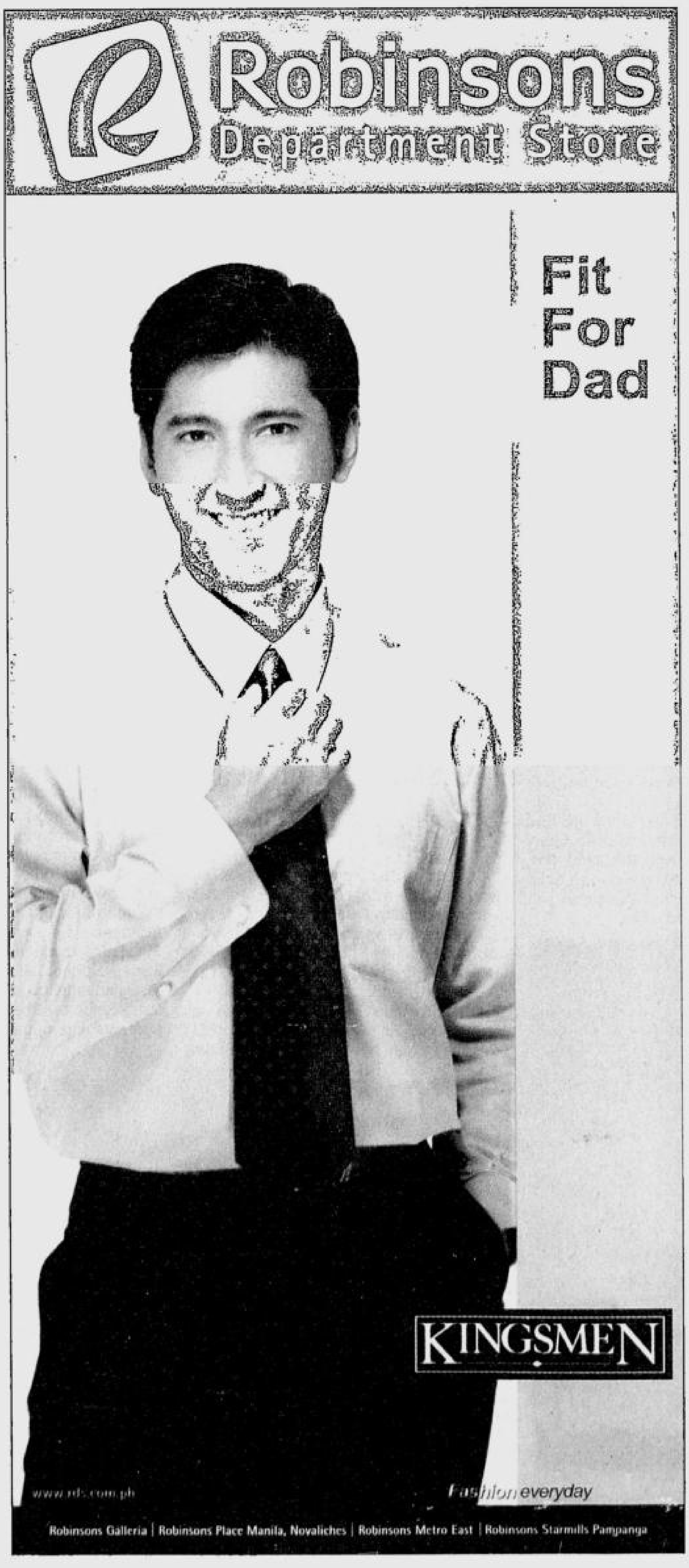
She is less irritable now, she says. She sleeps better, and accomplishes her tasks much faster. She believes that simplicity is the key to happiness. Craving for what you do not have only brings dissatisfaction.

"We are trustees of the bounties of the earth," she tells friends, and somehow, we know it is part of the wisdom she has learned from the earth she works with and for.

"And that's why," she concludes, "we must take care of them."

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

NARDA Capuyan operates her hand looms, says she is not giving them up even if she has branched out to furniture making.



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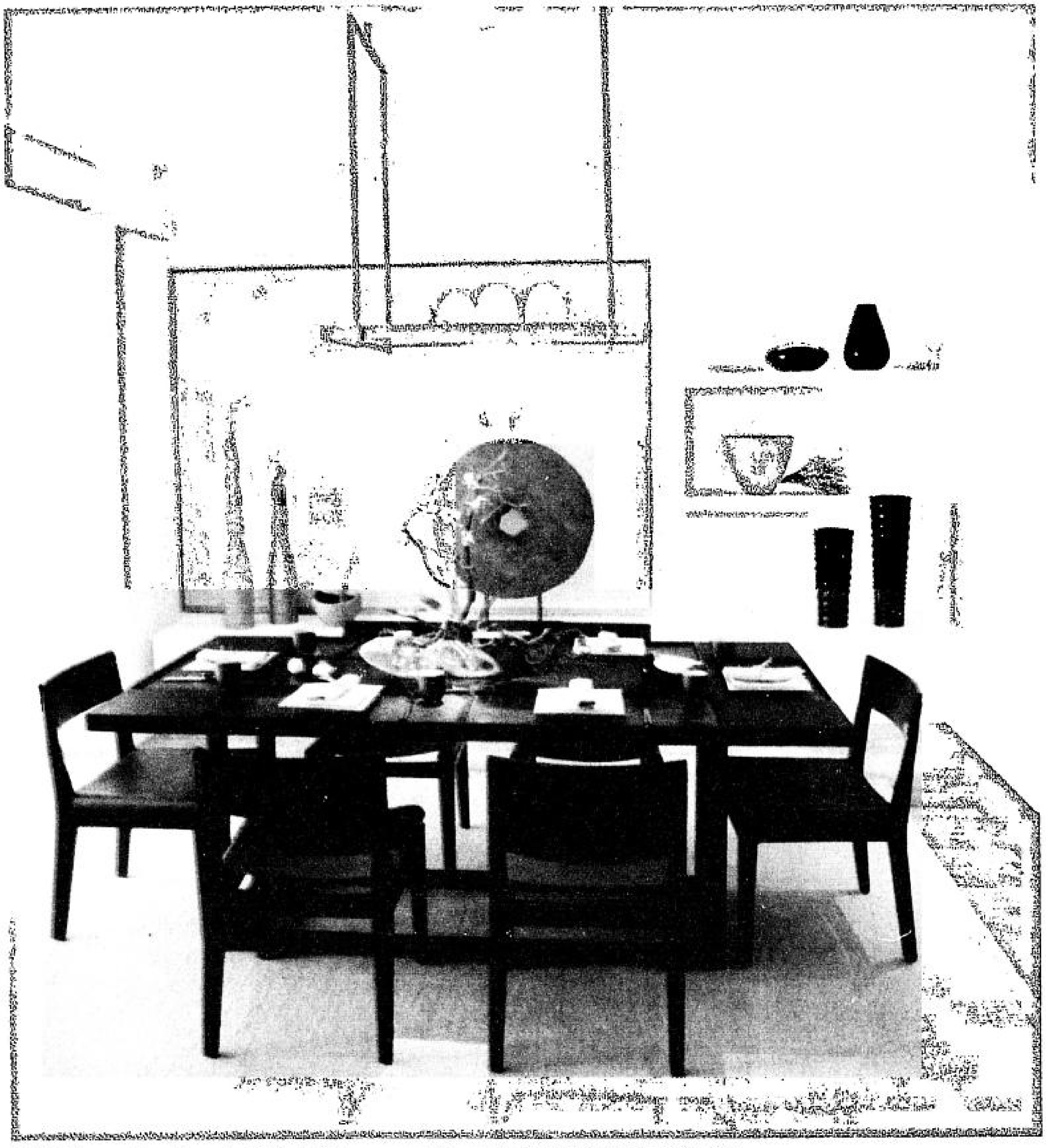
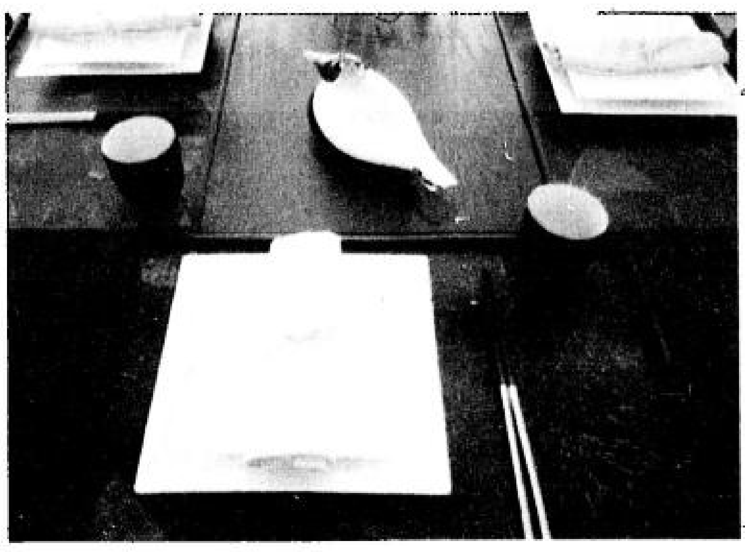
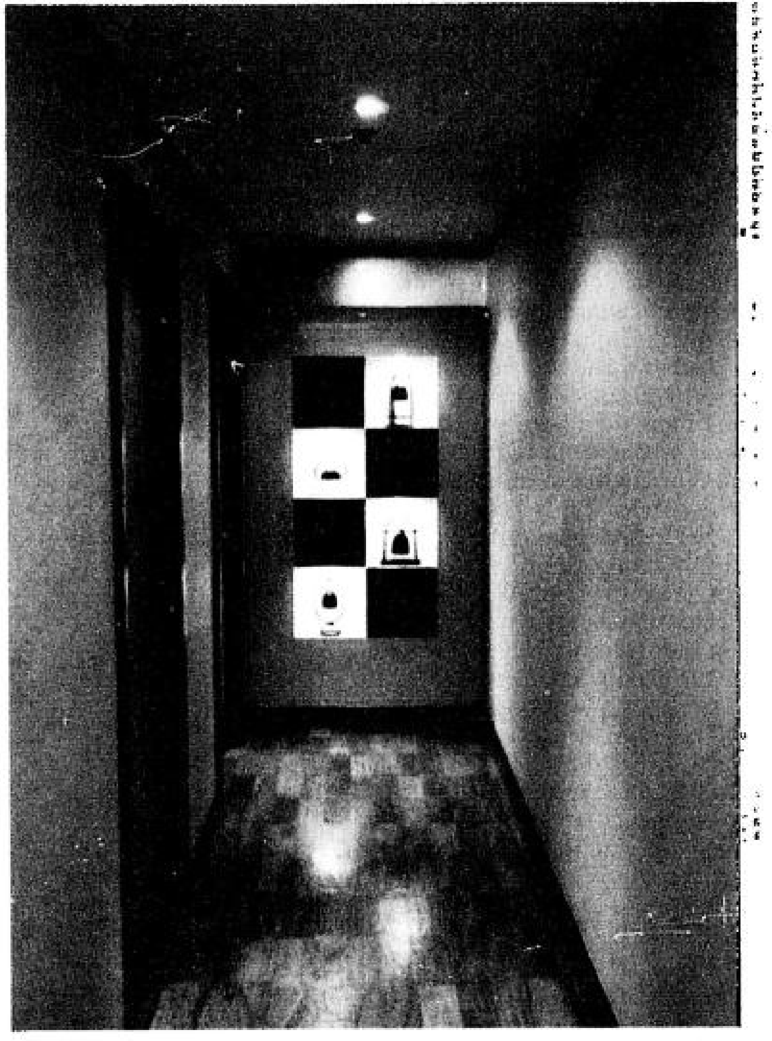


LAYUG fuses various elements of Orientalia to come up with a minimalist but interesting dining area.

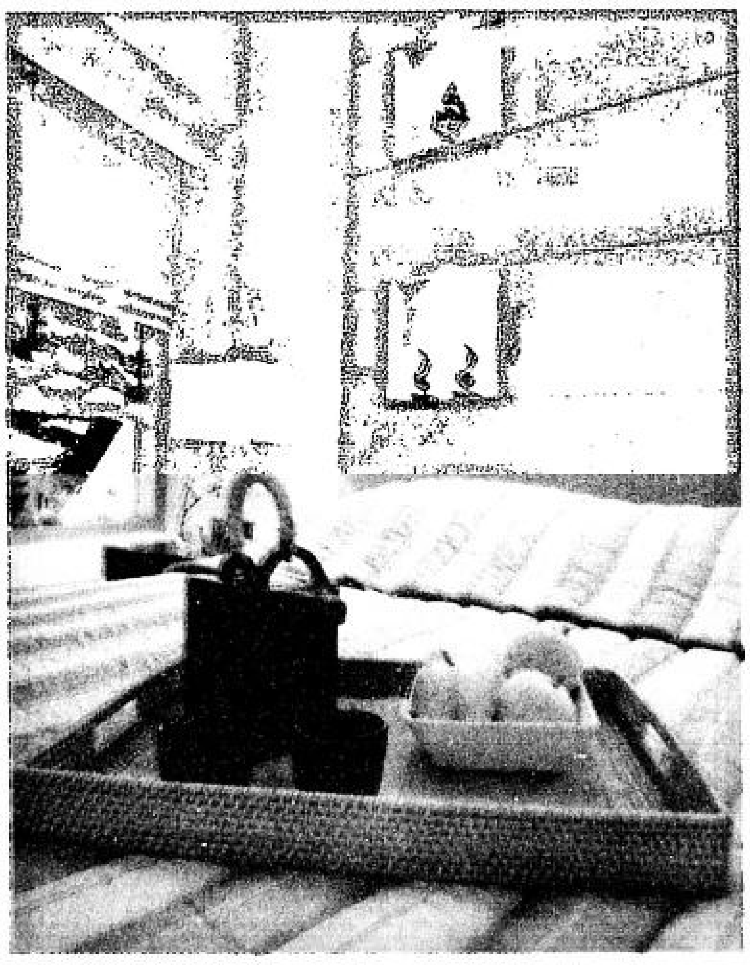


SQUARE on square table setting



A CORRIDOR leads to the children's bedrooms and a series of niches featuring Oriental bells in Marion Coscolluela's unit.

Green living in the concrete jungle



CLEAN, uncluttered lines impart the bedroom with a hotel feel. A wall device doubles as niches to highlight Asian accent pieces.

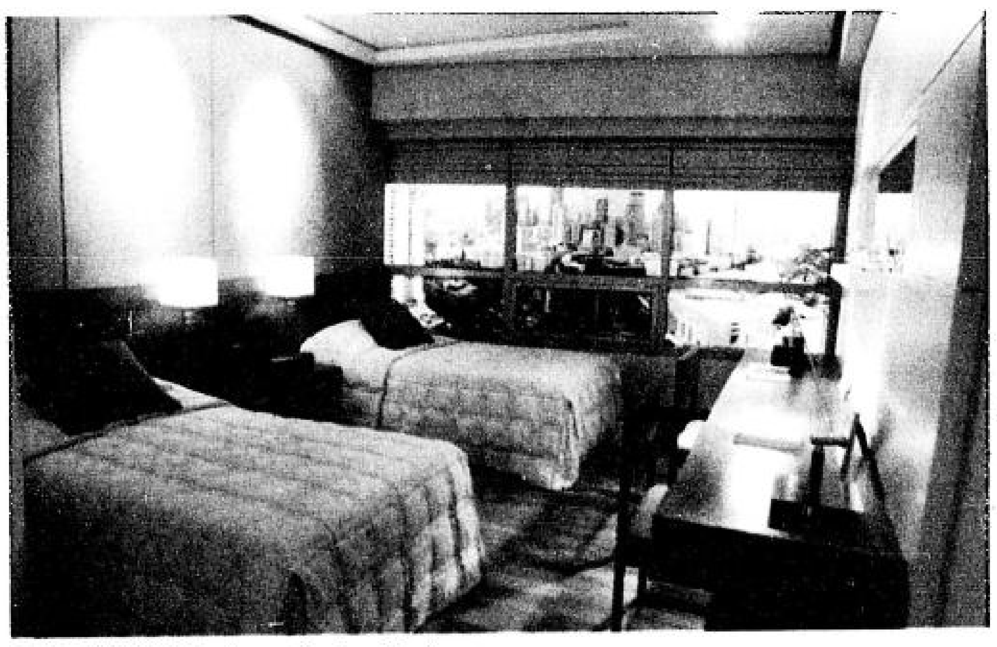
Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

THE LURE of Greenbelt "living" will soon be an elevator ride away as property developer Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) launches The Residences at Greenbelt, a high-rise community that will consist of three residential buildings right in the heart of one the Ayala Center's premium attractions.

ALI expects the first of three towers, a 48-story residential building consisting of 249 units dubbed as Laguna, to be completed by 2008. Two other buildings, San Lorenzo and Manila, are also in the pipeline. Once finished, Laguna will consist mostly of two- and three-bedroom condo units (136 sq m and 186 sq m, respectively) with expansive vistas of the metropolis and beyond.

Furniture designer Budji Layug and interior designer Marion Coscolluela have each come up with their respective takes on The Residences' two model units. Bigger, more high-end penthouse and so-called bi-level garden units at the property's podium (4th floor) are also up for sale.

Depending on the height of one's unit and its vantage point, the high rise will offer views of Makati's tree-lined villages, the Manila Bay, Antipolo Hills, Laguna de Bay and, on a clear, smog-free day, Mt. Banahaw. The higher you are, the better the view becomes.



COSCOLLUELA'S take on the boys' bedroom.

Greenbelt lifestyle is just an elevator away with The Residences

Adjacent to the New World Renaissance Hotel and right across Greenbelt 2, The Residences is bound by Pasay Road, Paseo de Roxas, Esperanza Drive and Greenbelt Drive. An overhead walkway, similar to those found at the Ayala Center, will be built to connect the property to Greenbelt 2.

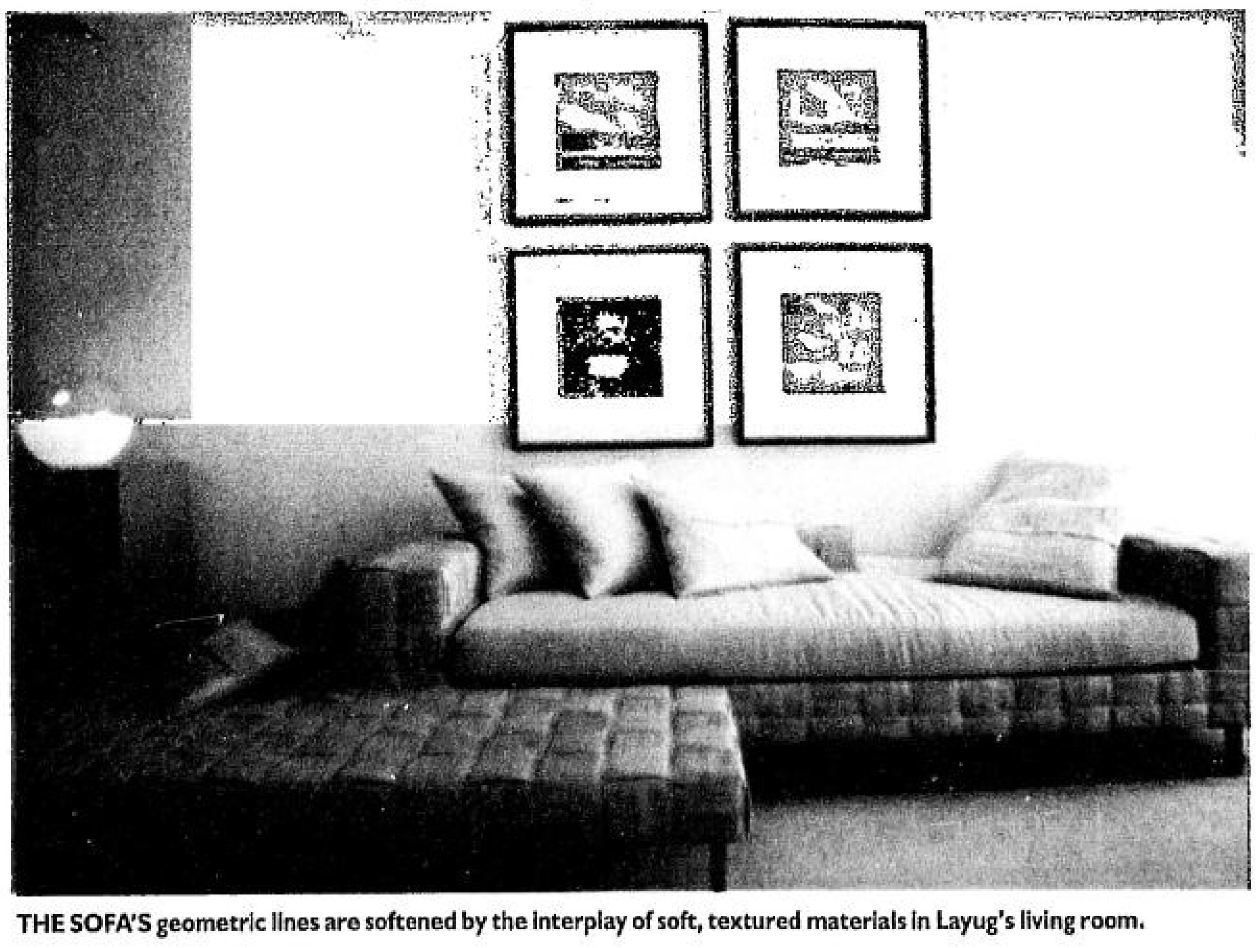
"Residents don't have to drive to get around," said Angela de Villa-Lacson, ALI's SVP and group head, residential building group and core-mid residential group. "They can even walk to work if their offices are within walking distance."

Other way around

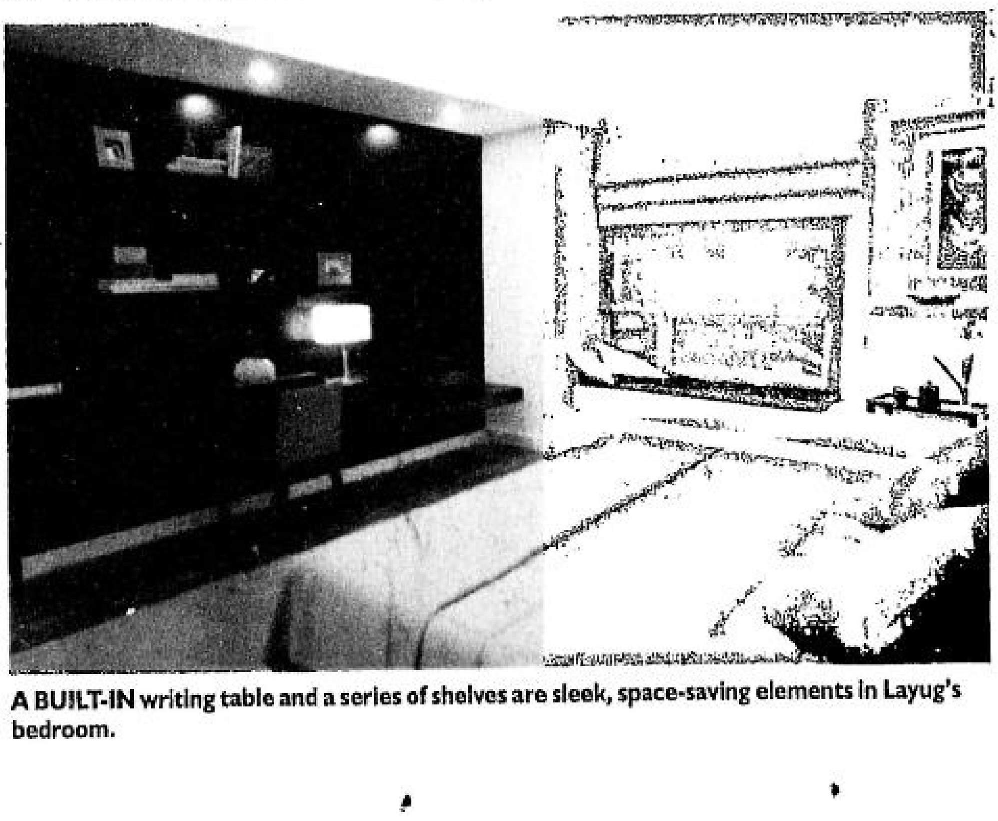
We've all heard of commercial establishments mushrooming around new and burgeoning communities. In this case, however, it will be the other way around. The Residences will provide quick and easy access to the full range of Greenbelt's existing shops, restaurants, cafés and entertainment venues.

"Laguna marks the next phase in Greenbelt's evolution," said de Villa-Lacson. "It's the first condominium to be part of the Ayala Center. Greenbelt will become an extension of the residents' entertainment area where they can

GREEN/ F8



THE SOFA'S geometric lines are softened by the interplay of soft, textured materials in Layug's living room.

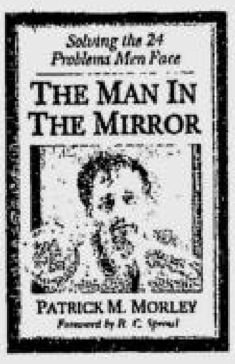


A BUILT-IN writing table and a series of shelves are sleek, space-saving elements in Layug's bedroom.

Good reads for Dads

IN CELEBRATION of Father's Day, OMF Literature Inc., publisher and distributor of Christian books, presents its recommended books for fathers.

These titles express the concerns of fathers and reveal the innermost joys and longings of a man's heart.

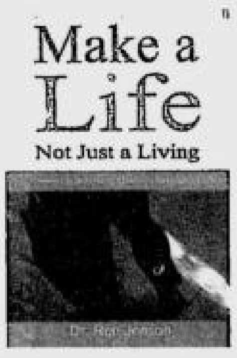


"The Man in the Mirror," by Patrick Morley

This book was written to help men find meaning and purpose in life. It invites men to take a probing look at their identities, relationships, finances, time, temperament, and most importantly, the means to bring about lasting change.

"Men of the Bible," by Ann Spangler and Robert Wolgemuth

A devotional that offers a fresh way to read and understand the Bible—through the eyes and hearts of the men whose stories unfold in its pages. By exploring the lives of 52 biblical figures whose stories range from the inspiring to the inglorious, this book offers penetrating glimpses into the way God works in people's lives.



"Purpose-Driven Life," by Rick Warren

A 40-day spiritual journey that seeks to answer life's most important question: What on earth am I here for? By the end of this journey, the reader will be able to know God's purpose for his life and will understand the big picture—how all the pieces of his life fit together.

"Make a Life, Not Just a Living," by Ron Jenson

This book is not just another challenge to put family relationships above career-climbing. Rather, it helps articulate and pursue a definition of success that takes into account the whole person, that allows one to lead a balanced, fulfilled and significant life rooted in real and lasting values.

"Wild At Heart," by John Eldredge

What is a Christian man? Eldredge's book invites men to recover their masculine heart, defined in the image of a passionate God, and women to discover the secret of a man's soul and to delight in the strength and wildness men were created to offer.

Available at all National Book Store branches, Powerbooks, Christian bookstores nationwide and OMF Literature, Inc. in Metro Manila (776 Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City) and Cebu City.

Call 532-7754 or 532-5736 (Metro Manila) or (32)412-5543 (Cebu), or e-mail info@omflit.com or omflitcebu@omflit.com.

Cocktail party to honor Pops

ON JUNE 14, Canyon Woods Residential Resort in Laurel, Batangas, will honor fathers with a cocktail party at the club House lobby at 7 p.m.

Club members and their guests will be entertained by a jazz band. Mugs will be given away to all fathers in the party. Heading the celebration is George S. Go, president and CEO of Canyon Woods.

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**At David's Salons Training Center,
you get a headstart by learning from the experts.**
Our training staff is made up of senior professional stylists
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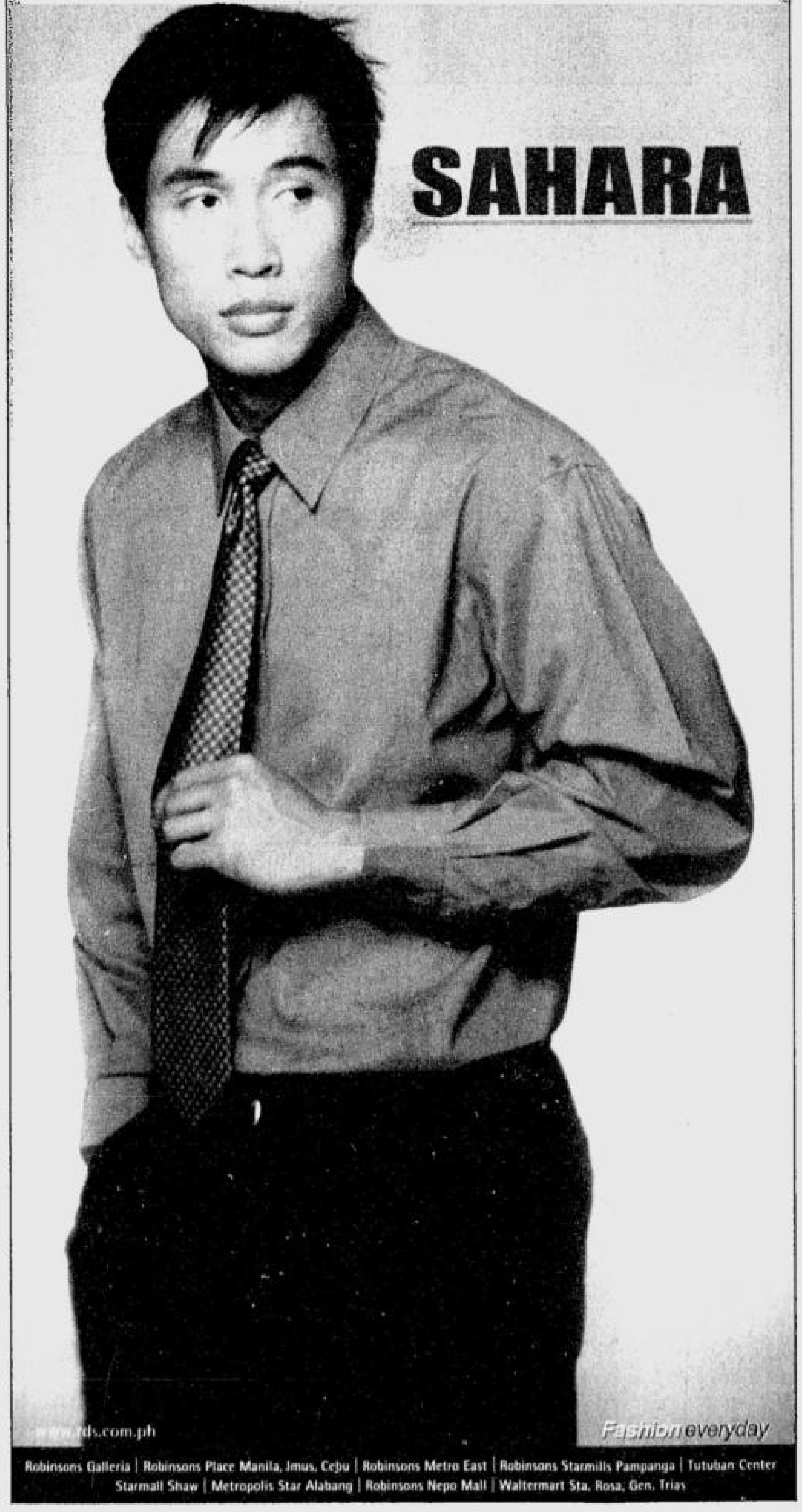

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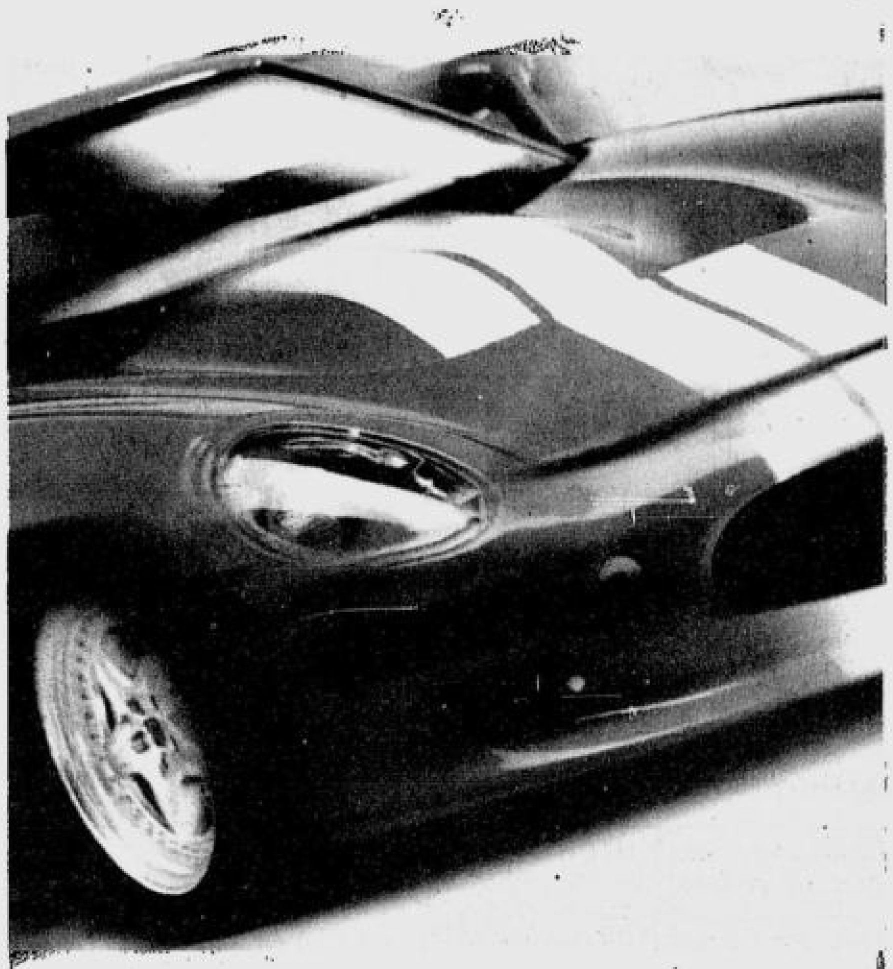
Starmall Shaw | Metropolis Star Alabang | Robinsons Nepo Mall | Waltermart Sta. Rosa, Gen. Trias


Really,
really hot?

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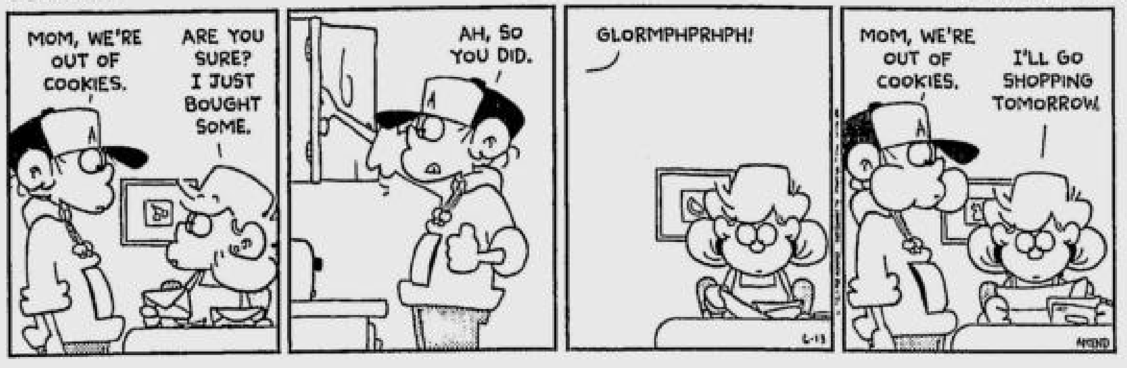
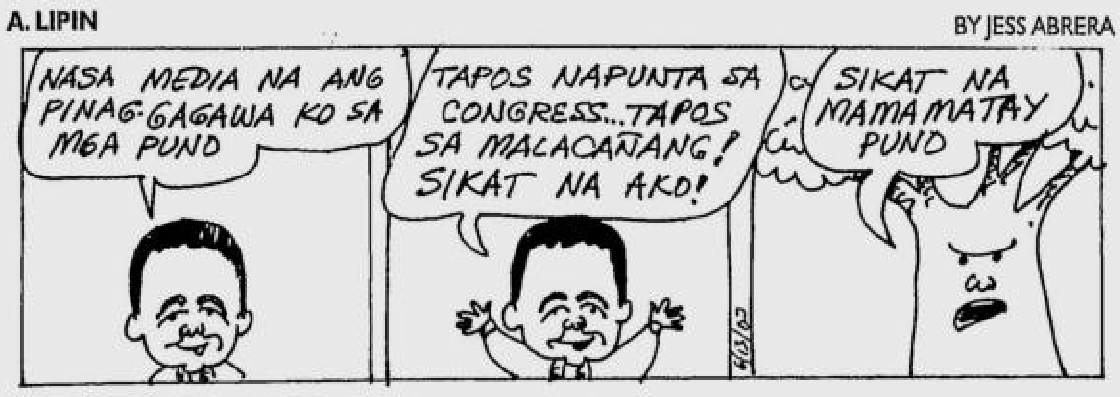
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


MOM, WE'RE OUT OF COOKIES.
ARE YOU SURE? I JUST BOUGHT SOME.
AH, SO YOU DID.
GLORMPHPRHPH!
MOM, WE'RE OUT OF COOKIES.
I'LL GO SHOPPING TOMORROW.

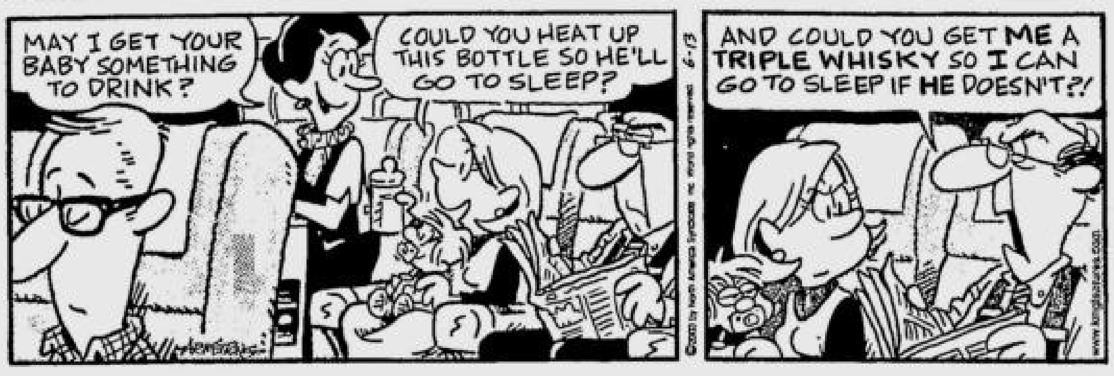
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NASA MEDIA NA ANG PINAG-GAGAWA KO SA MGA PUNO
TAPOS NAPUNTA SA CONGRESS...TAPOS SA MALACAÑANG! SIKAT NA AKO!
SIKAT NA MAMAMATAY PUNO
6/13/03

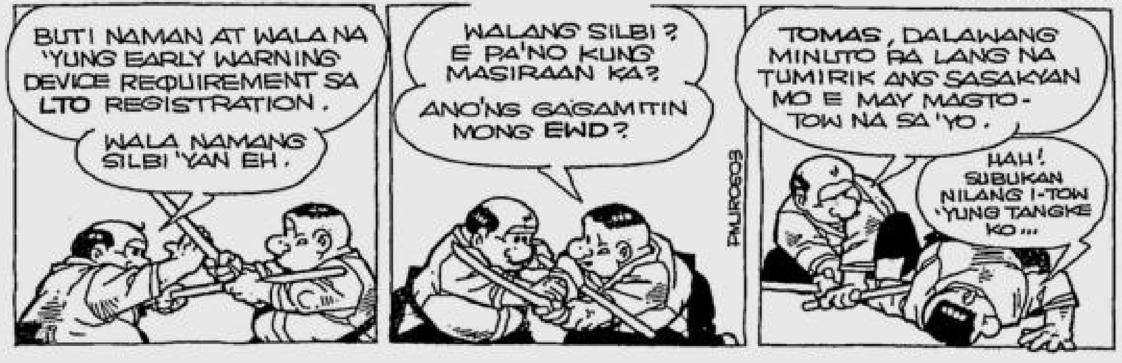
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MAY I GET YOUR BABY SOMETHING TO DRINK?
COULD YOU HEAT UP THIS BOTTLE SO HE'LL GO TO SLEEP?
AND COULD YOU GET ME A TRIPLE WHISKY SO I CAN GO TO SLEEP IF HE DOESN'T?!

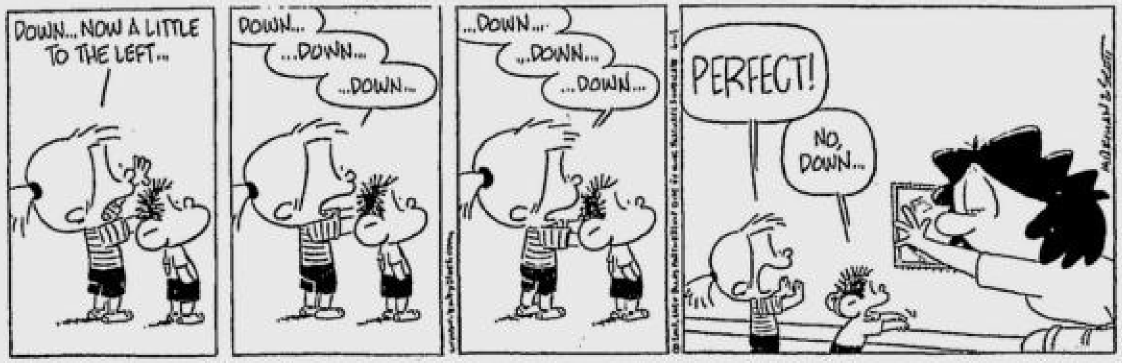
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BUTI NAMAN AT WALA NA 'YUNG EARLY WARNING DEVICE REQUIREMENT SA LTO REGISTRATION.
WALA NAMANG SILBI 'YAN EH.
WALANG SILBI? E PA'NO KUNG MASIRAAN KA?
ANO'NG GAGAMITIN MONG EWD?
TOMAS, DALAWANG MINUTO PA LANG NA TUMIRIK ANG SASAKYAN MO E MAY MAGTO-TOW NA SA'YO.
HAH! SUBUKAN NILANG I-TOW 'YUNG TANGKE KO...

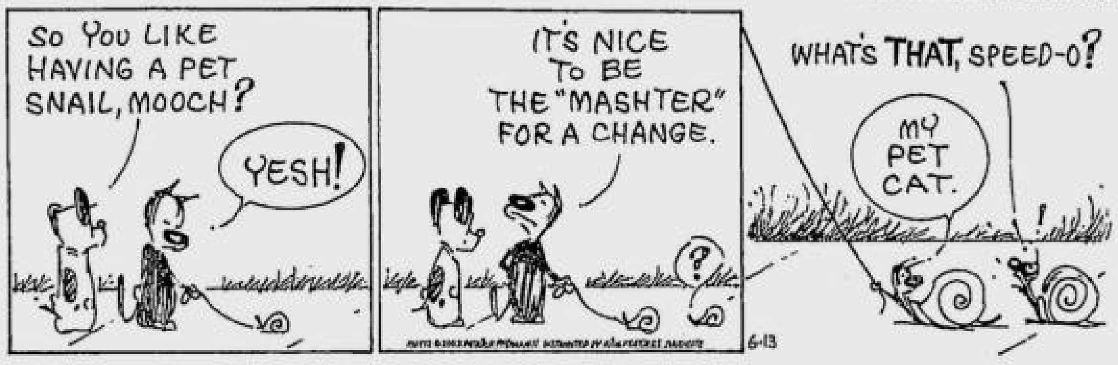
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DOWN... NOW A LITTLE TO THE LEFT...
DOWN...
...DOWN...
...DOWN...
...DOWN...
...DOWN...
...DOWN...
PERFECT!
NO, DOWN...

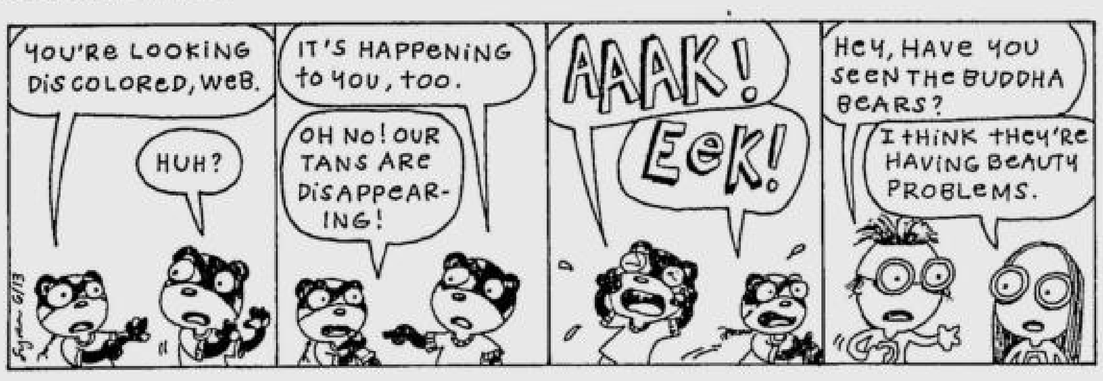
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


So You LIKE HAVING A PET SNAIL, MOOCH?
YESH!
IT'S NICE To BE THE "MASHTER" FOR A CHANGE.
?
WHAT'S THAT, SPEED-O?
MY PET CAT.
!
6-13

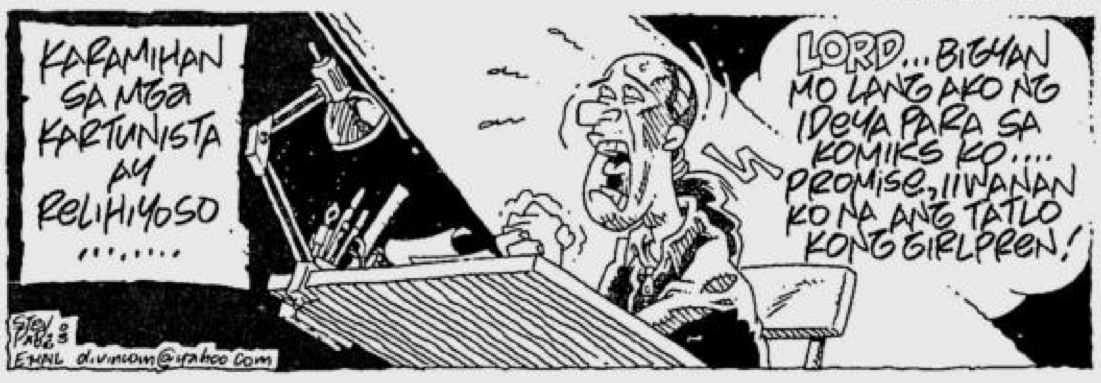
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


YOU'RE LOOKING DISCOLORED, WEB.
HUH?
IT'S HAPPENING TO YOU, TOO.
OH NO! OUR TANS ARE DISAPPEAR-ING!
AAAK!
EEK!
HEY, HAVE YOU SEEN THE BUDDHA BEARS?
I THINK THEY'RE HAVING BEAUTY PROBLEMS.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


KARAMIHAN SA MGA KARTUNISTA AY RELIHIYOSO ....
LORD... BIGYAN MO LANG AKO NG IDEYA PARA SA KOMIKS KO.... PROMISE, IIWANAN KO NA ANG TATLO KONG GIRLPREN!
EMAIL divincom@yahoo.com

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Your nonchalant manner and clever wit disguise your serious mind. You have two personalities: a lighthearted one for the public, and a more conservative, private one for yourself. You change easily between these two masks, depending on where you are and with whom you're talking. Expect a social year. All friendships and partnerships are blessed!

Birthdate of: Malcolm McDowell, actor; Tim Allen, comedian/actor; Dorothy Sayers, writer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Take extra precaution when driving and walking today. A mild tension building up within you could cause you to be careless.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Don't give too much thought to worries that occur to you today about money and possessions. This is just tension building up before tomorrow's Full Moon.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Because tomorrow's Full Moon is directly opposite your sign, you will feel a bit restless today as the Full Moon builds. This is perfectly natural. Relax.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Double-check everything at work today, because you might easily make errors. If errors do occur, it is because of haste or carelessness. (Very easy to do right now.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): It might be easier to go along with plans that friends suggest rather than making adjustments. Although you are a natural leader, sometimes it's polite to be a follower.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You should be wary of making suggestions to your boss today. It might not be a good idea. Minor power struggles are possible right now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Think twice before you speak today. Discussions with siblings or relatives could go off the rails because somebody else takes offense at what you say (even though you are always diplomatic).

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Worries about how much money you have and how much money you're going to get prey on your mind today. Remember, it's not how much you make but how much you save that makes the difference.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): If you can get out and get some physical exercise, you'll feel better. A mild tension is building up within you before tomorrow's Full Moon, which is in your sign.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Give little thought to self-doubt and feelings of inadequacy that haunt you today. There is no justification for this. This is just a temporary black cloud on your horizon.

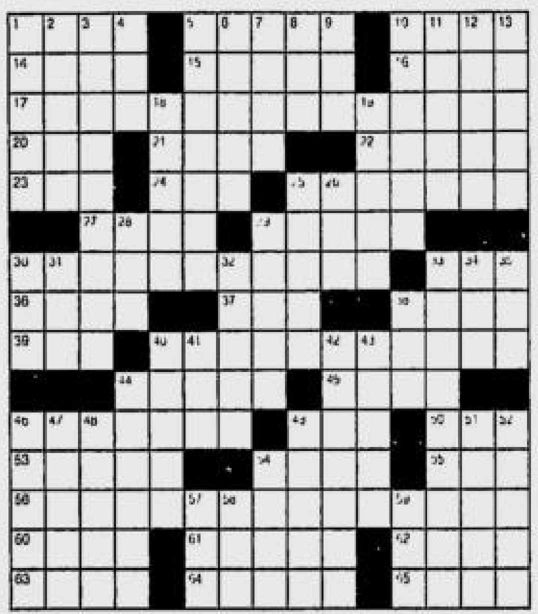
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Do not react to a friend's criticism today. No doubt, it is well-meaning. If it isn't, then you don't need this friend anyway, right?

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Someone wants to give you constructive advice today. Naturally, you don't want to hear this. Keep in mind that this person thinks you will be better for it, even if you don't agree.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Scarlet and crimson
5 Sling mud
10 Govt. agent
14 "Paper Lion" star
15 Trunk
16 Crown of light
17 Department store's burlesque apparel?
20 Oriental sauce
21 Savvy about
22 Set free
23 Sixth sense?
24 Final degree
25 Floral wreath
27 Parasites on people
29 Dental filling
30 Web no-no?
33 Tank
36 Untold centuries
37 Ballerina steps
38 Gobi's continent
39 Society gal
40 Ford classic
44 From this place
45 Flimflam
46 Tapes
49 __ of Good Feeling
50 Inarticulate grunt
53 In the midst of
54 Lode yields
55 Arthur of "Maude"
56 Military fast food?
60 Medicinal succulent
61 Felt poorly
62 Misstep
63 Approach
64 George and Margaret
65 Shoshones

DOWN
1 Rear
2 Lincoln and Zumwalt
3 Alternate invasion strategy?
4 Droop
5 Cut corners
6 May or June
7 Therefore
8 Onager
9 Nonsense
10 Scantily
11 Type of ray
12 Emulsifying agent
13 Nuzzled
18 Time being
19 Bucolic
25 Grind together
26 Clay, today
28 Possessive pronoun
29 Likeness
30 Crossed out
31 Caviar base
32 Grand sagas
33 Motor mount?
34 Jordan's nickname
35 Wee lad
38 Lawyers' org.
40 Brink
41 Terminate
42 Fashionable duds
43 Banquet salute
44 Goose
46 1930 Nobel physicist
47 Sociologist Durkheim
48 Powdered chocolate
49 Slipped
51 Bottle dweller?
52 Hardware fasteners
54 Neighbor of Colo.
57 Dinner tuber
58 Buy the farm
59 Bird's alma mater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By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD

6/13/03

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

C	H	A	R	T	■	E	D	G	E	■	P	A	R	T
A	U	G	E	R	■	L	O	O	T	■	A	C	E	R
W	H	E	N	A	S	K	E	D	H	O	W	T	H	E
■	■	■	E	L	Y	■	■	S	I	C	■	T	O	N
D	O	G	W	A	S	W	H	O	C	H	E	W	E	D
I	D	E	A	■	T	H	E	N	■	R	O	O	D	S
M	I	L	L	■	E	E	L	■	S	E	N	■	■	■
S	E	T	■	O	M	E	L	E	T	S	■	E	F	T
■	■	■	S	S	S	■	U	V	A	■	E	L	L	E
C	A	R	O	B	■	E	V	E	N	■	V	E	E	S
U	P	A	D	O	L	L	A	R	T	H	E	V	E	T
S	I	P	■	R	O	E	■	■	O	A	R	■	■	■
S	A	I	D	N	O	C	H	A	N	G	E	Y	E	T
E	R	N	E	■	S	T	A	G	■	U	T	U	R	N
D	Y	E	S	■	E	S	S	O	■	E	T	H	A	N

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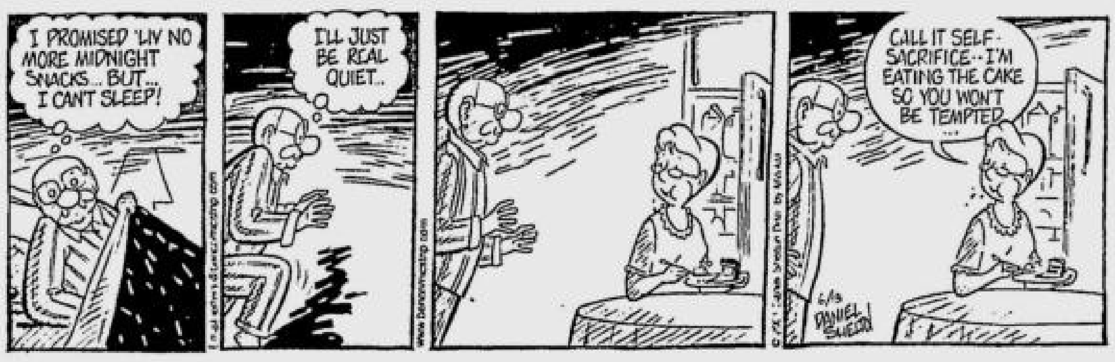
6/13/03

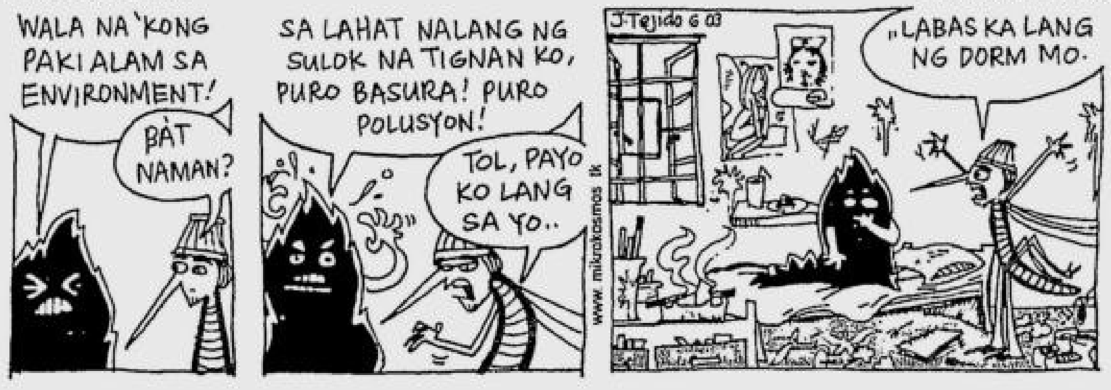
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I PROMISED 'LIV NO MORE MIDNIGHT SNACKS... BUT... I CAN'T SLEEP!
I'LL JUST BE REAL QUIET...
CALL IT SELF-SACRIFICE... I'M EATING THE CAKE SO YOU WON'T BE TEMPTED...
6/13
DANIEL SHELTON

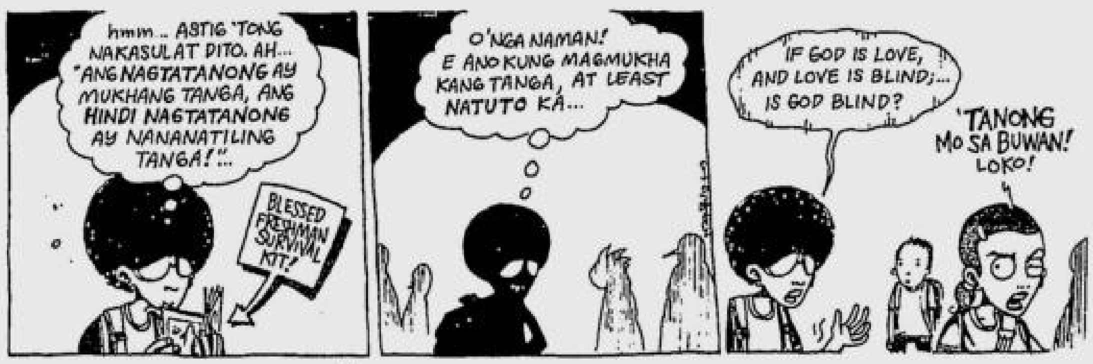
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


WALA NA 'KONG PAKI ALAM SA ENVIRONMENT!
BAT NAMAN?
SA LAHAT NALANG NG SULOK NA TIGNAN KO, PURO BASURA! PURO POLUSYON!
TOL, PAYO KO LANG SA YO..
www.mikrokosmos.tk
J-Tejido 6 03
..LABAS KA LANG NG DORM MO.

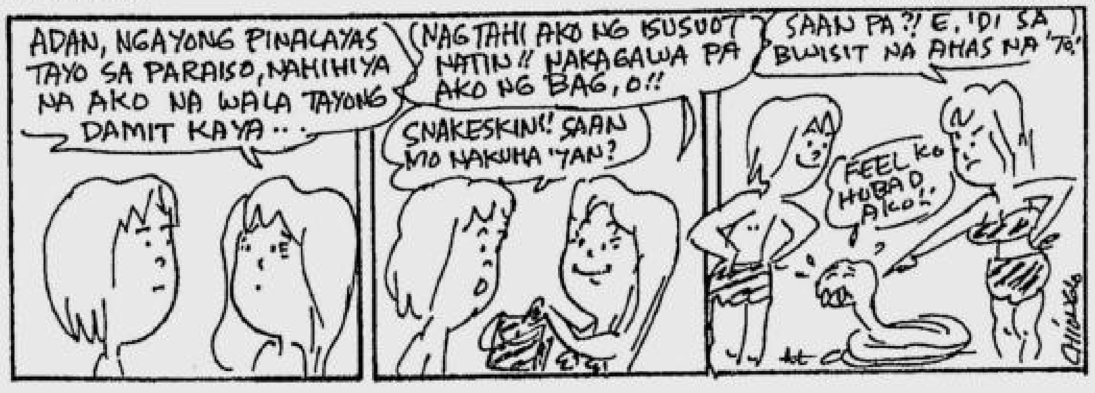
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


hmm.. ASTIG 'TONG NAKASULAT DITO. AH... "ANG NAGTATANONG AY MUKHANG TANGA, ANG HINDI NAGTATANONG AY NANANATILING TANGA!"...
BLESSED FRESHMAN SURVIVAL KIT!
O'NGA NAMAN! E ANO KUNG MAGMUKHA KANG TANGA, AT LEAST NATUTO KA...
IF GOD IS LOVE, AND LOVE IS BLIND;... IS GOD BLIND?
'TANONG MO SA BUWAN! LOKO!

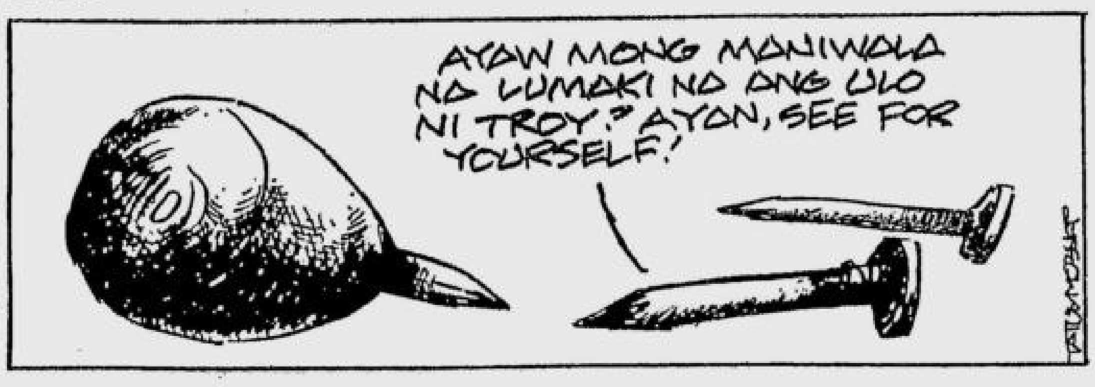
LOVEKNOTS

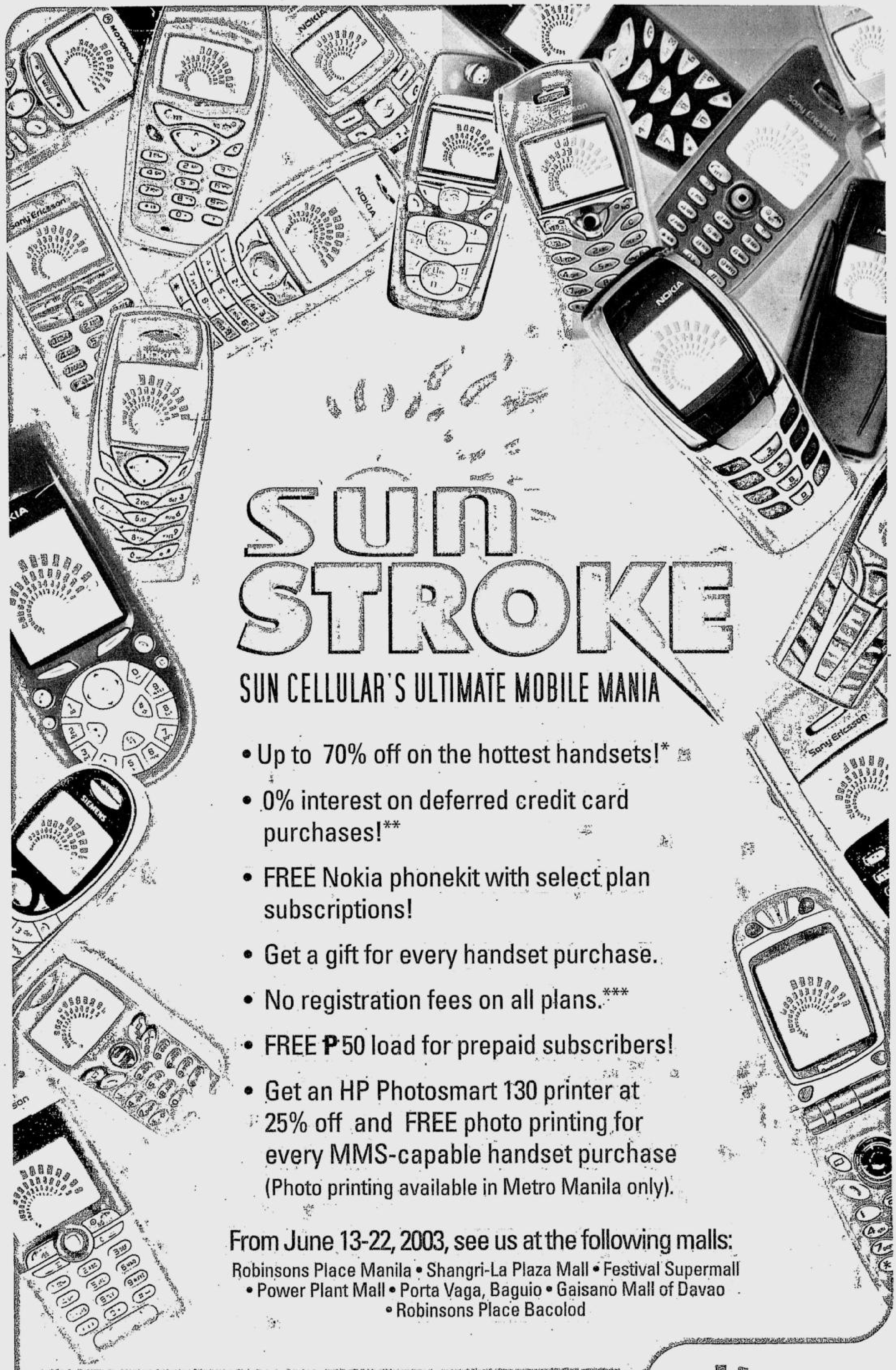
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ADAN, NGAYONG PINALAYAS TAYO SA PARAISO, NAHIHIYA NA AKO NA WALA TAYONG DAMIT KAYA...
NAGTAHI AKO NG ISUSUOT NATIN!! NAKAGAWA PA AKO NG BAG, O!!
SNAKESKIN!! SAAN MO NAKUHA 'YAN?
SAAN PA?! E, 'DI SA BWISIT NA AHAS NA 'YO!
FEEL KO HUBAD AKO!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


AYAW MONG MANIWALA NA LUMAKI NA ANG ULO NI TROY? AYON, SEE FOR YOURSELF!



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.2520 Series of 2003.

THE THREE-BEDROOM condominium's living room designed by Coscolluela

PARQUET flooring and bright walls make up the entire three-bedroom unit.

COSCOLLUELA provides the master bedroom with indirect lighting, a sculptural lamp and a bird's eye view of things to come.

Green living in the concrete jungle

From page F4

eat, drink, shop, listen to good music and imbibe the café culture."

Of course, such a lifestyle comes with a price. A two-bedroom unit at The Residences costs around P8.5 million, while a penthouse unit can set clients back by as much as P18 million to P20 million.

Interestingly, ALI took its cue from tenants of its townhouses during a previous development consisting of a series of apartments above Greenbelt 3. Aside from their accessibility to Greenbelt and Glorietta, the townhouses have a come-on in the area's garden setting. So ALI will be providing residences of its newest project with pocket gardens.

"The townhouses have become so popular that we've decided to replicate them on a bigger scale," said de Villa-Lacson. "While they're [townhouses] for rent, the condo units at The Residences are for sale."

Residents who want to stay indoors can spend their time at the podium. The tree-lined level above the property's multi-level parking lot is designed as a common area among residents of the three towers. Once finished, it will boast of several swimming pools, jogging path, sun deck, spa, grand social hall, daycare and game room, among others.

BY COMBINING glazed dishes and textured flatware, Coscolluela is able to come up with a modern yet warm table setting.

But Laguna residents won't have to wait until the two other towers are finished. A third of the podium, which will include two swimming pools, a pond and a Zen-inspired meditation garden, will be up and running in time for Laguna's completion five years from now.

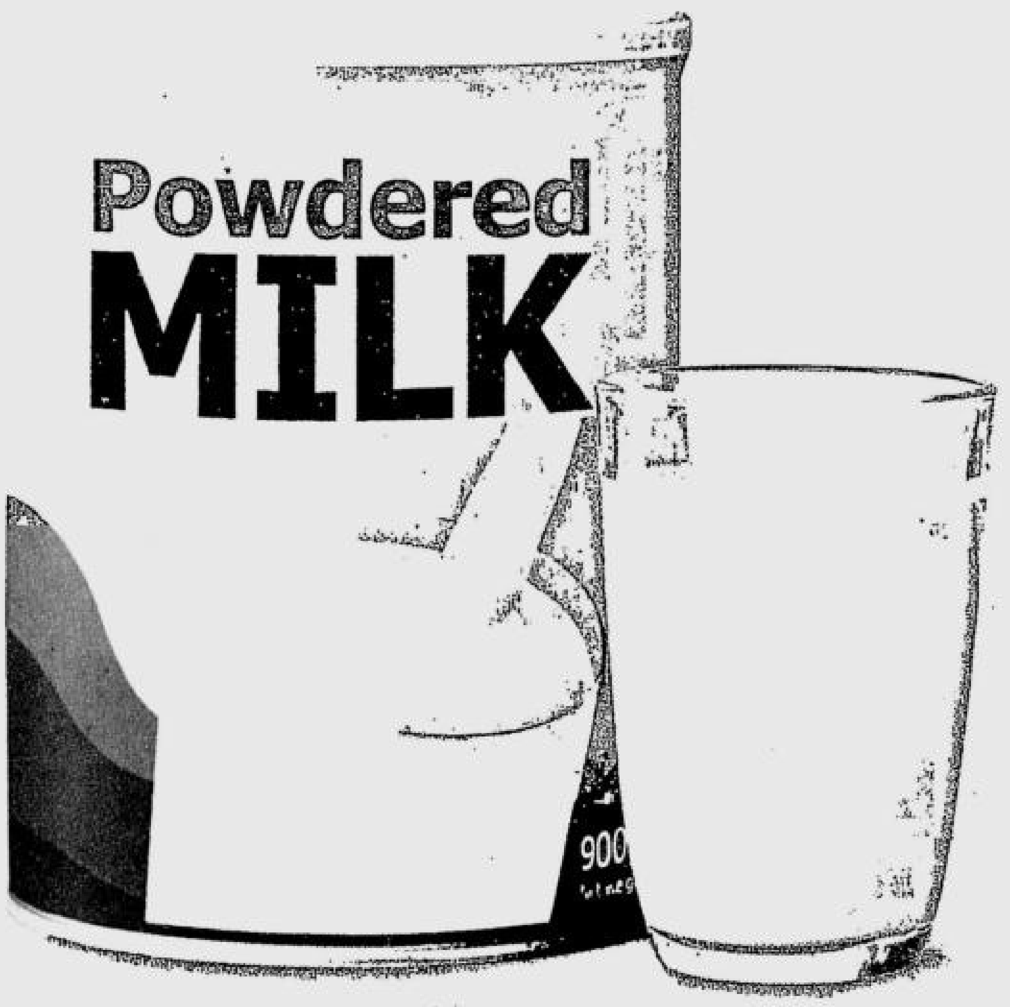
Despite sharing the same address as a busy mall, de Villa-Lacson assured residents of peace and quiet.

"If we are to go by the experience of those who now rent townhouses [at Greenbelt 3]," she said, "living at The Residences will be like living in your own secluded world." Indeed, a remote world where a restaurant, shop or cinema is never too far away.

For inquiries, call Ayala Land Inc. at 848-5000

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

Saan ka makakaMOOra?



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GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS 03

THE TEAM: Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez, Lala Flores-Magpantay, Jo Ann Bitagcol, JP Abinuman, Anne Torres-Bichelmier, Apples Aberin-Sadhwani, Izza Gonzales-Agana and Gem Padilla

Catwalk queens continue with their catwalk ways even if out of the spotlight

TWEETIE made these accessories with her own hands the night before the shoot.

Off the ramp

Text by Gem B. Padilla
Contributor
Photos by Mandy Navasero and Pinky R. Go

THESE models may no longer strut on the ramp on a regular basis, but they are still very much a part of the fashion industry. They often describe themselves as "retired," but they remain visible in the fashion scene. They appear on various magazine covers and do fashion shows by request. Certainly, fashion and these ladies have a devoted relationship.

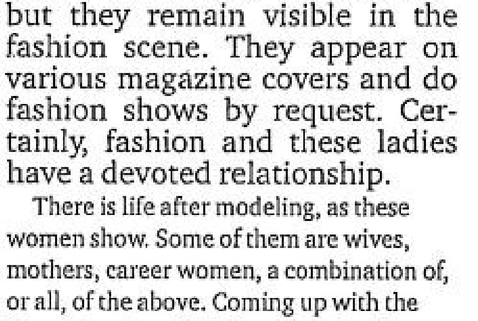
There is life after modeling, as these women show. Some of them are wives, mothers, career women, a combination of, or all, of the above. Coming up with the idea of putting all of them together for a fashion shoot was easy. Getting them all together for the shoot was not.

If I thought that life after modeling would have slowed then down and freed their schedules. I couldn't have been more mistaken. Everyone was busy with new lives and careers that blended with the old. With Apples Aberin-Sadwhani taking charge of styling, Jo Ann Bitagkol behind the camera, Anne Torres-Bichelmier and Izza Gonzales-Agana puttering about the clothes, Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez busy with the accessories and Lala Flores whipping up makeup colors, the pictorial was an experiment in fashion for fashion's sake.

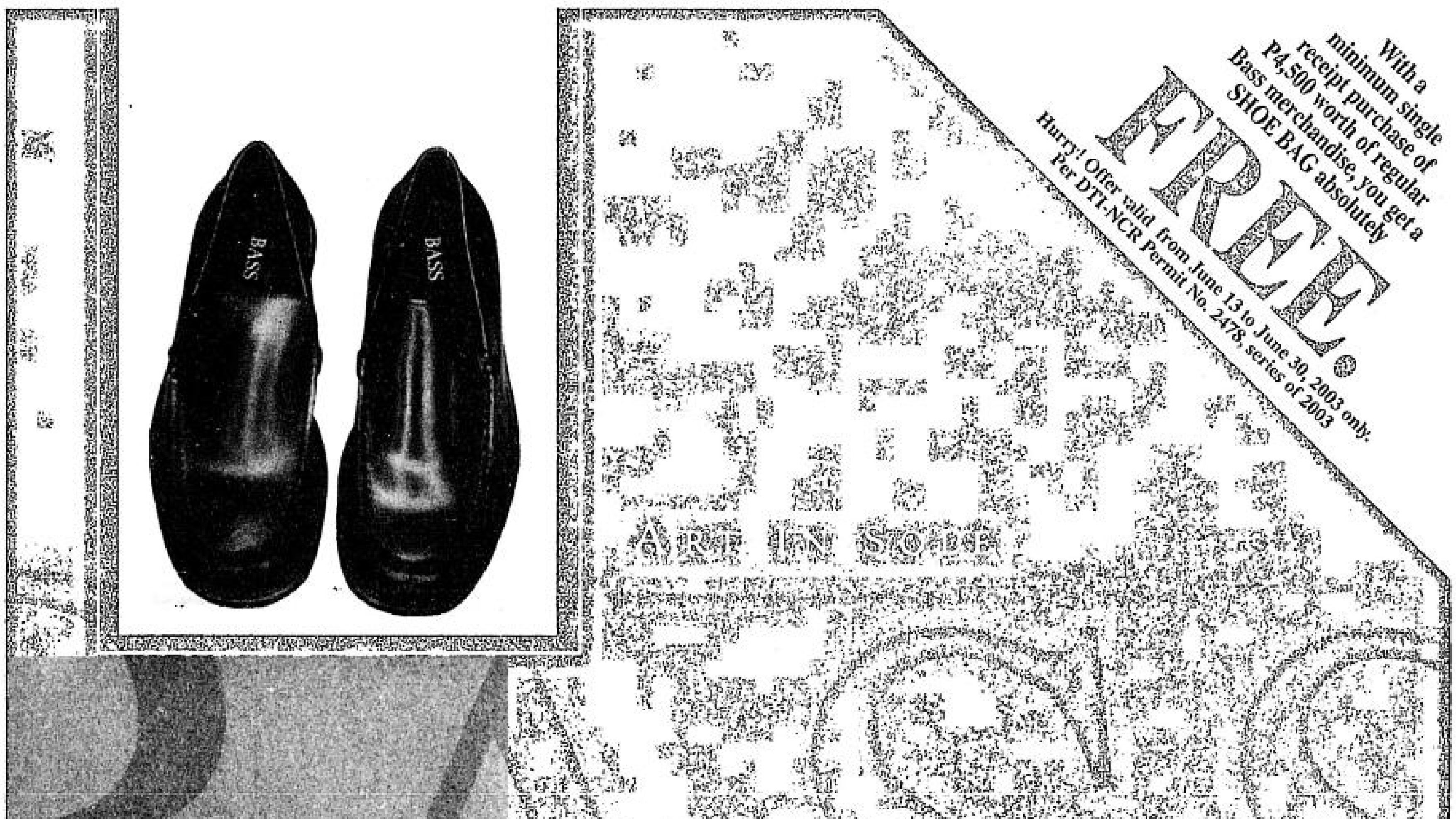
To those not in-the-know, Apples, Anne, Izza, Lala and Tweetie walked countless ramps and graced the pages of fashion magazines all over the world at the height of their careers as models. Joan is still busy with modeling assignments even as she makes the transition to photography.

One Thursday morning found us all at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel like seven Amazons on a rampage. We chased the

OFF/ G4



COULDN'T HELP OURSELVES. Izza, Jo Ann, Lala, Apples, Anne and Gem striking a pose with model JP.



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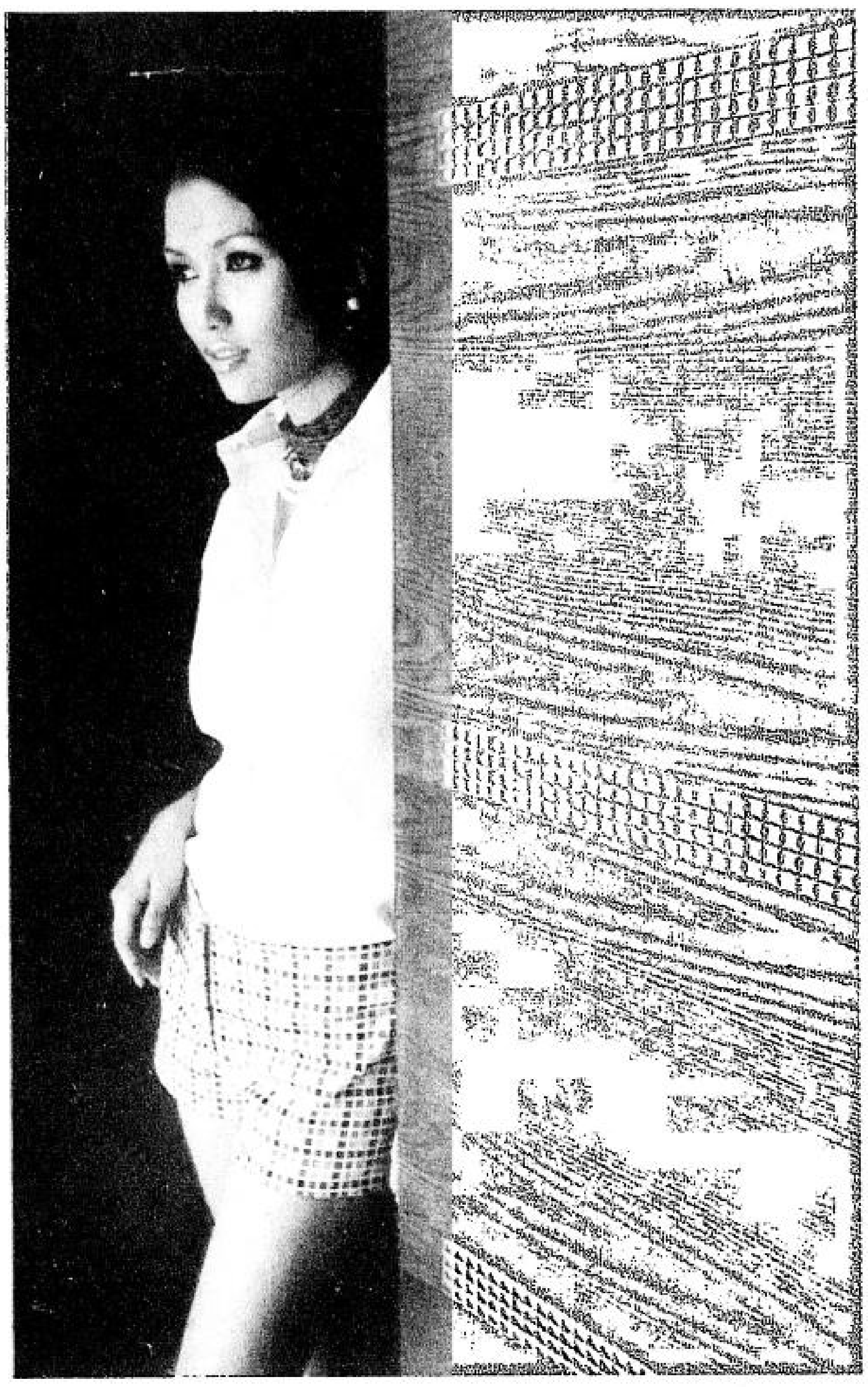
FASHION REP

Revenge of the



Text and styling by Apples Aberin-Sadhwani
Photos by Jo Ann Bitagcol
Concept by Gem Padilla

SOPHISTICATION, refinement and glamour are back in the forefront of fashion as gauged from Fall 2003 collections presented by designers the world.

Jewel tones replaced summer's candy-colored hues while sleek silhouettes and clean shapes took the place of flouncy, flirty, floral daywear. Sixties fashions were evident in the Courreges-inspired collections while Alaia, Mugler and Montana served as inspirations for the updated '80s trend.

Whet your appetite for all things fashionable by taking a sneak peak at some of the best trends for Fall 2003.

Not quite preppy

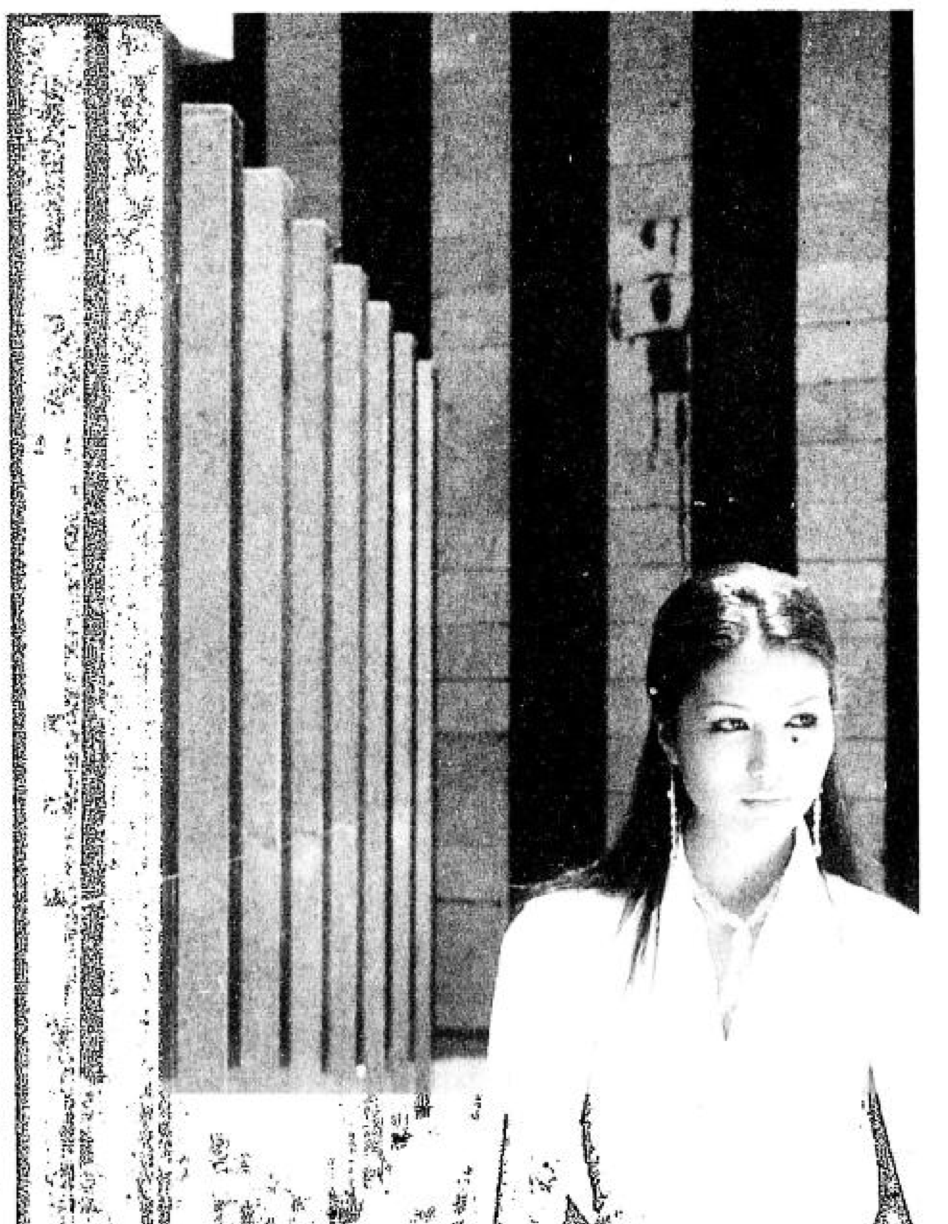
Preppy elements such as pearls, the white polo shirt and checkered shorts still abound. The difference is in the way these pieces are worn... with much more oomph and sex appeal. This time around, leave that extra button open, ditch the loafers for sexy strappy heels and pile on the accessories.

White cotton polo shirt and green-and-white checkered shorts by Izza Gonzales-Agana; pearls and coral choker, designer's own; agate choker by Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez.

Menswear mania

With just a bit of reworking, men's wardrobe basics can be transformed into ultra-feminine styles. Tuxedos and suits made of suiting material but cut close to the body or in an hourglass silhouette, and the white shirt worn in a variety of ways, are prime examples of this trend.

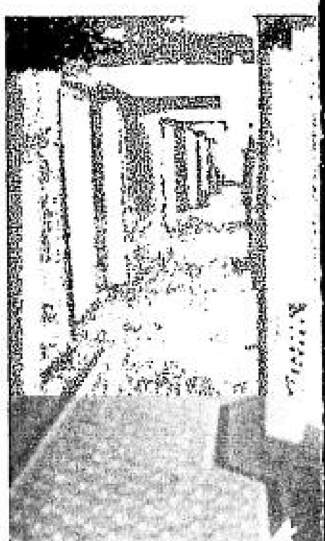
White cotton piqué top and black linen drawstring pants by Izza Gonzales-Agana; champagne-colored mother-of-pearl choker by Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez; shoes, designer's own.



Everyday glam

Now is the time to dress up in sophisticated pieces that bespeak mature sexuality. Pencil skirts in different textures and rich colors are this season's staple. Wear it with belted jackets or your not-so-basic white polo shirts and remember that matching accessories are the key to achieving grown-up appeal.

White cotton halter tuxedo shirt and black brocade pencil skirt with slit by Anne Torres-Bichelmeir; cardigan from Jessica; Swarovski crystals, pearls and crystal quartz earrings and crystal quartz lariat by Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez.



The cocktail dress

The elegant cocktail dres

Choose one in vibrant jewel

ticated hues. Depending o

take the sleeker road with s

sey dresses or go flamboyant

and beadwork.

Black jersey cocktail dre

pearl accent by Anne Torres-

'60s-and-'80s-inspired but classically determined, Fall 2003 fashion is chic but liberating

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ACCESSORIES:
TWEETIE DE LEON-GONZALEZ
(TEL. 724-6535)

MODEL:
JP ABINUMAN

Modern mod

The mod-look is still going strong as mini skirts, A-line dresses and pea-coats take center stage in the fall collections. Wear your fashionable Courreges-inspired minis with opaque tights and loads of confidence.

Ice-blue silk shantung A-line dress with mother-of-pearl detail by Anne Torres Bichelmeir; mother-of-pearl bracelet by Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez; shoes, stylist's own.

ORTAGE
classic

is back in fashion.
nes or dark sophis-
your personality,
y, streamlined jer-
with ruffles, pleats

s with mother-of-
ichelmeir.

Updated classics

Luxe lace and ordinary denims have never looked this stylish. Update your look by creating unique and unexpected combinations such as a lace coat worn with a nude jersey tube top and cuffed blue jeans.

Lace coat and tube top by Izza Gonzales-Agana; blue jeans from Mango; Swarovski crystal belt by Tweetie de Léon-Gonzalez.

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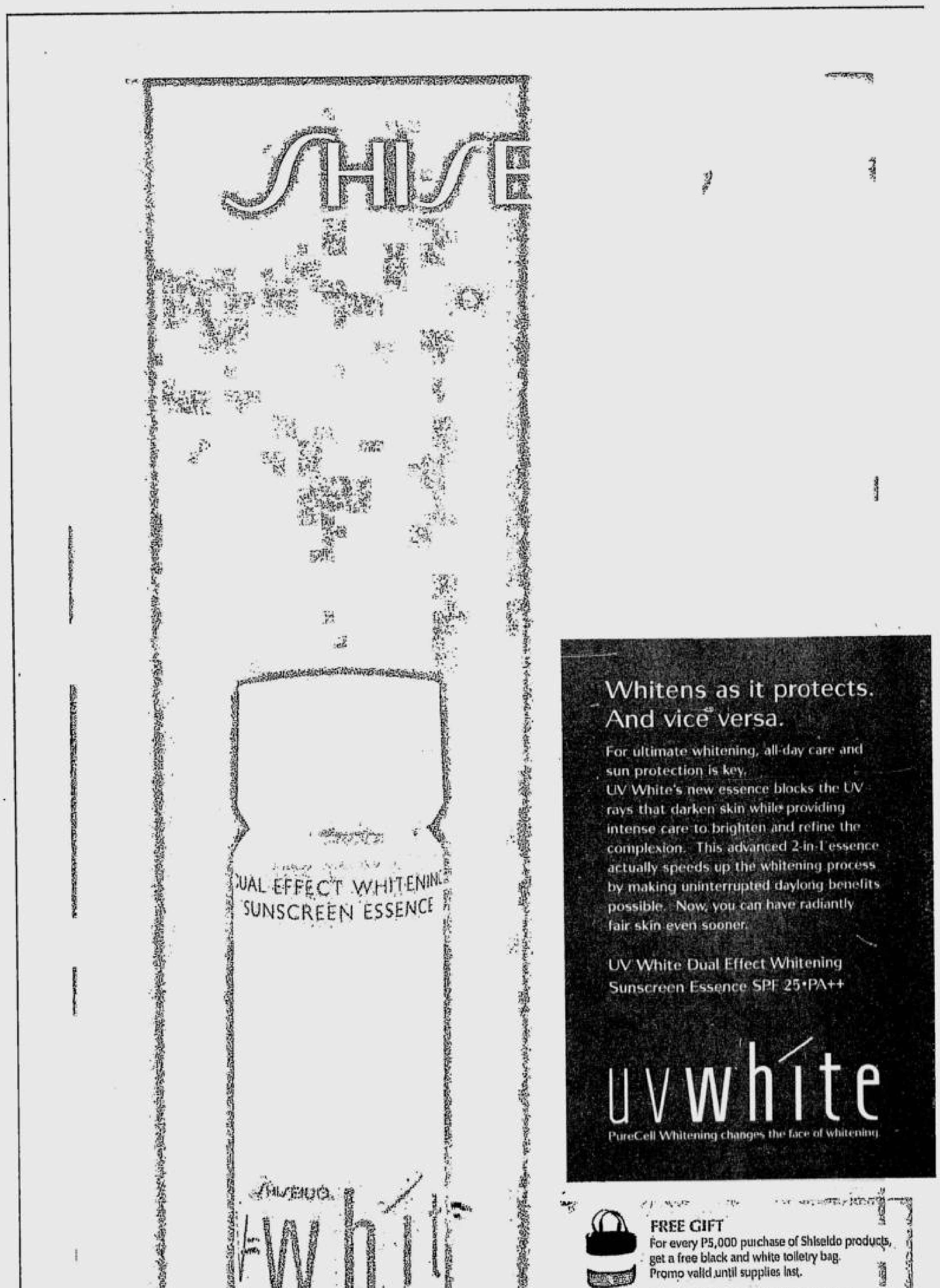

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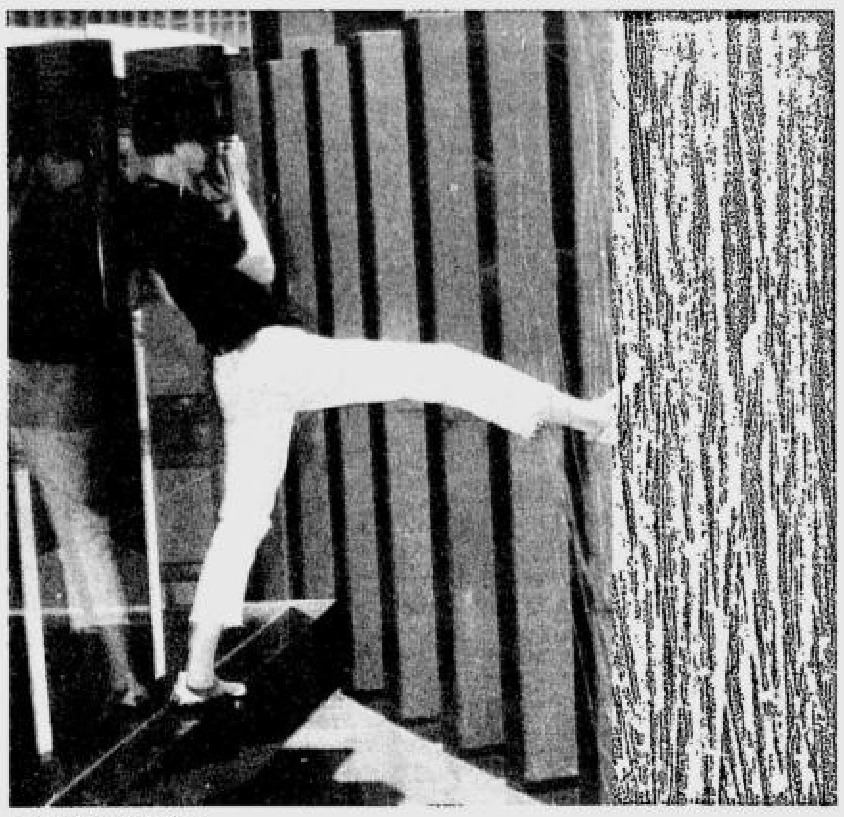

JO ANN in action

"MODEL faints from torture" was the first choice for a pictorial theme. Truly, it was a tortuous stint for JP as she was surrounded by the pesky *señoras*..

IZZA and Apples doing bags and accessories.

Off the ramp

From page G1

light, the look, the angles, the hair, etc., etc. We were thankful that at the end of the long day, our model, JP Abinuman, was still standing and it seems, not too traumatized at having the *señoras* coach her to death.

I never did get around to asking all of them if they had any inkling when they were younger as to their future career. All I remember was back in the day when we used to do our own makeup for out-of-the-country shows, Lala used to pester me to fix my makeup. I always tried but she always ended up fixing it for me anyway. Who knew we would all be working together again--and off the catwalk at that!

The pictorial atmosphere was fun; it was part-work, part-play (with endless reminiscing chit-chat during breaks). It seemed that everyone really got into the spirit of the experiment.

Maybe old habits die hard. These ladies are still real pros when they're on the job, whatever it may be. Models doing a model turn.

ONE last look by Gem.

OOPS!!! Trade secrets revealed! Oh well, banana clips come in handy

JO ANN giving directions. Behind her, Lala, Anne and Apples show the model how it's done.

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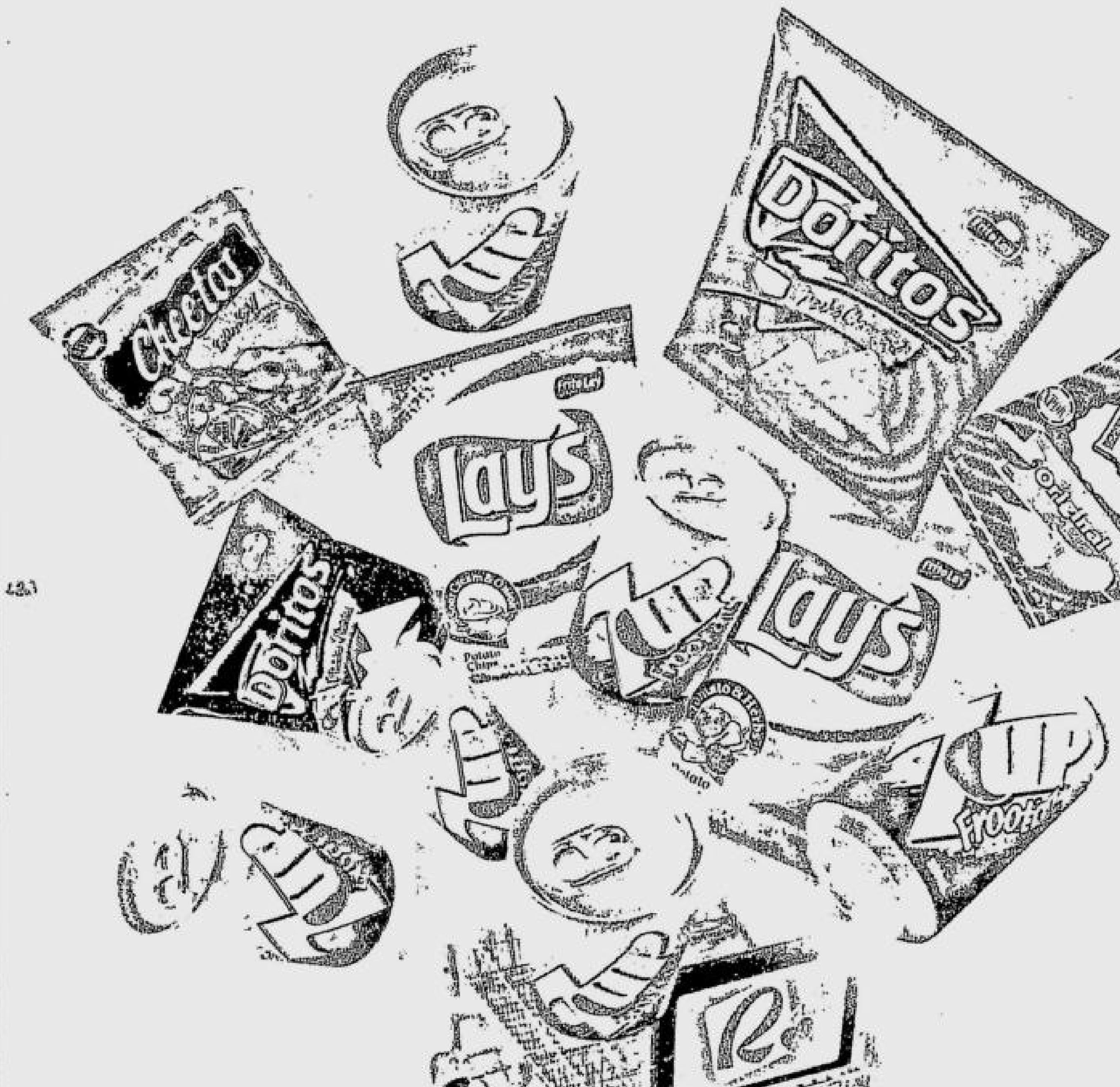

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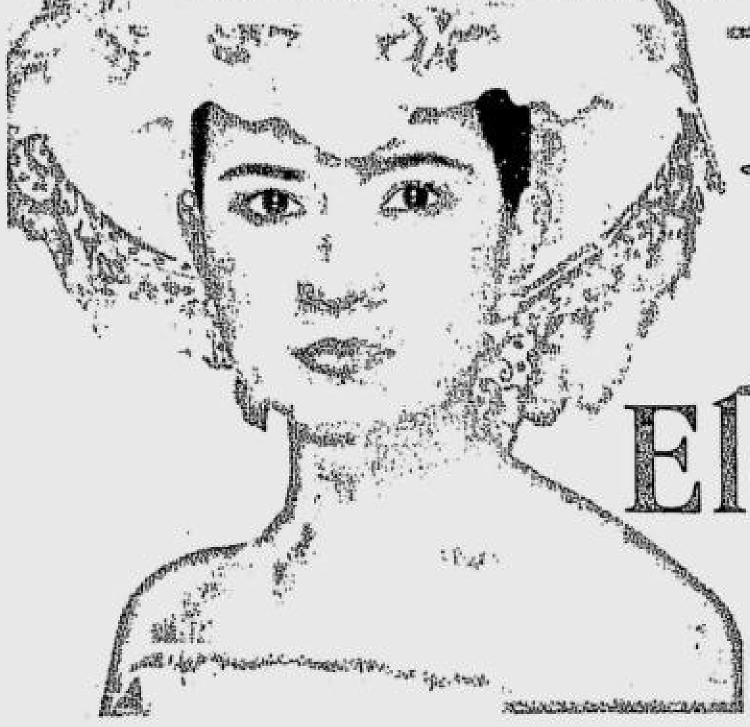
LIFESTYLE

Trend Spotting

H1



Mia Elegancia

Story on page H2

She could have been Doris Day, the conservative Charlotte of 'Sex and the City,' or the timeless Audrey Hepburn

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Mia Elegancia

AT A COCKTAIL wearing a Prada black dress

By Anton San Diego

IF MIA Borromeo were a Hollywood celebrity, she would be a modern Doris Day. If you are too young to know who Doris Day is, then perhaps she could be compared with "Sex and the City's" Charlotte (Kristin Davis). She is pretty, perky, wholesome, genuine, self-effacing and an all-around nice person.

Mia is a lady in every sense of the word. She never speaks ill of anyone, never gossips, is always poised and very proper, but knows how to have fun, too.

Mia is the owner, along with good friend Lizzie Zobel, of the Regatta store. She is a management consultant of Wish boutique. She is one lady who really knows her fashion A to Z.

Mia's trademark look is pared-down elegance. She opts for comfortable, simple and understated clothes.

STYLE EYES

Define style.

Style is an individual's way of expressing herself and her personality in everything that she does, including the way she dresses.

Describe your personal style.

Simple, classic with a twist.

If you were to make a best-dressed list, who would be in it?

Lizzie Zobel, Rina Ortiz, Tina Ocampo, Mai Mai Cojuangco, Celine Lopez and Ines Delgado.

Who do you think is a stylish man?

Raul Manzano, Jacques Dupasquier.

Who are your favorite local/ international designers?

Inno Sotto, Alberta Ferretti, Armani.

If you had a makeover, whose style would you emulate?

My favorite style icon is Audrey Hepburn. She has always been, for me, one of the most stylish and elegant women ever. She brought her particular grace and style into everything she did—from her films and her entire career as an actress to the end of her life as a goodwill ambassador of Unicef.

What is your biggest extravagance?

Shoes!

What do you wear at work?

Mostly black pants or jeans and a white shirt.

Secret shops?

When I travel, I like shopping in little no-brand stores that have original things. I also love a good find in markets and in the *tiangge*.

How has your mother influenced your style of dressing?

One thing I've learned from my mom is the importance of dressing appropriately for the occasion. She has also shown me the value of simplicity and understatement.

A woman dresses to...?

Express herself.

Style tips?

The most stylish women are those who dress in a pared-down sort of way and who dress in what suits them best rather than what is trendy.

Beauty secret or regimen?

Moderation.

If you could have access to anyone's wardrobe, whose would it be?

Caroline of Monaco—beautiful clothes and fabulous accessories.

What has been your biggest fashion faux pas?

I'm sure I've had many... best forgotten!

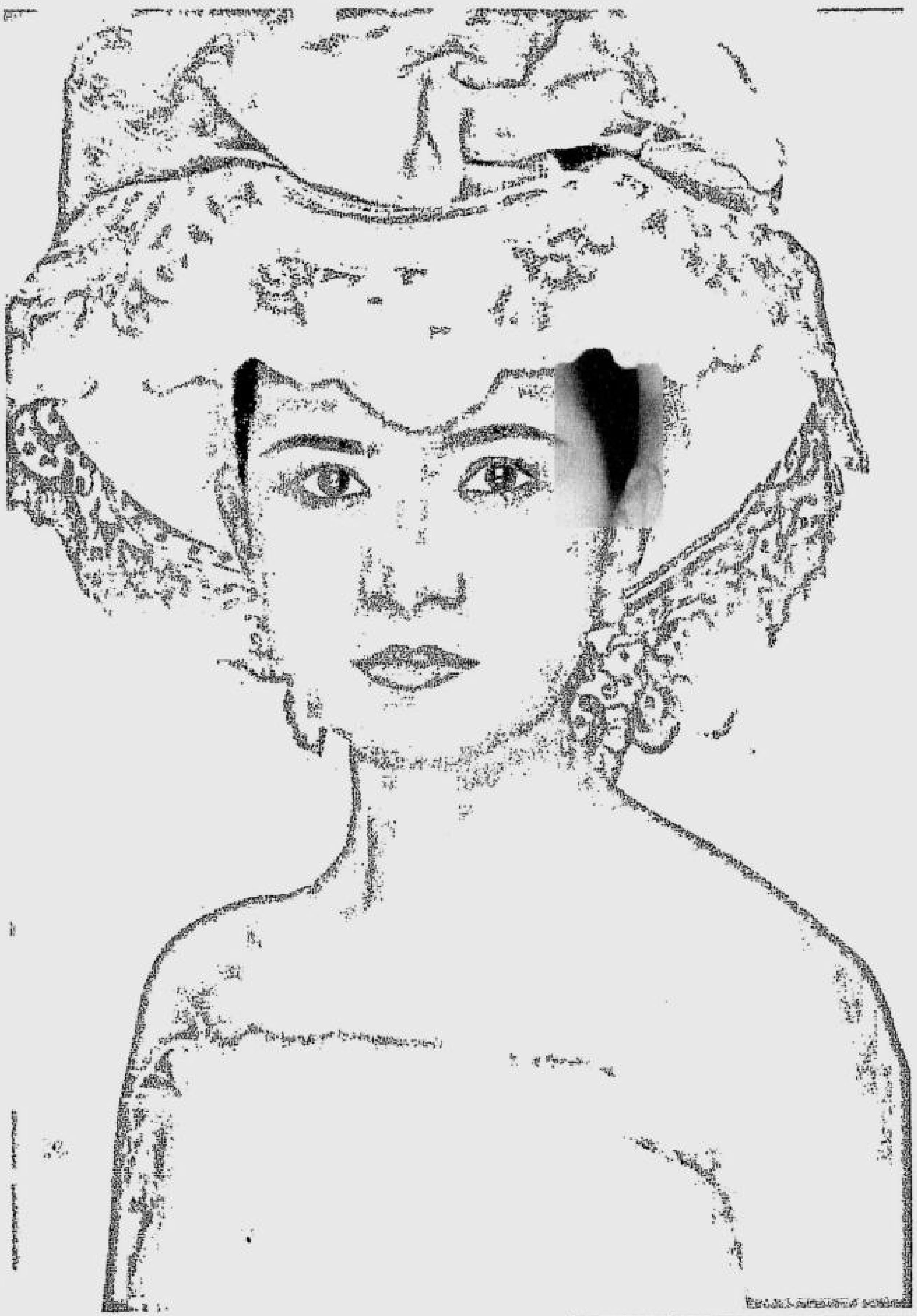
What is on your wish list right now?

White Seven jeans and a Roberto Cavalli cheongsam dress.

Which era would you have wanted to live and dress in?

I love the '50s—that time was so elegant.

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com



PORTRAIT. Mia Borromeo in Patrick Rosas' book (Photographed by Jun de Leon)

LOVE THIS BAG! One of her favorite bags by Anya Hindmarch

CHIC CHART

Toiletries

Shampoo/conditioner: Neutrogena
Toothpaste: Colgate
Soap: By Fresh
Scent/ perfume: Creed Spring Flower

Makeup

Lipstick: Bobbi Brown
Moisturizer: Neutrogena Moisture
Blush: Bobbi Brown
Foundation: Shu Uemura, MAC
Sunscreen: ROC

Clothes

Jeans: Seven, Earl
Top: Regatta, Banana Republic, Custo Barcelona, Emporio Armani, Zara, Chloe, Shanghai Tang
T-shirt: Gap
Pajamas: Regatta, Chinese silk PJs from Stanley Market
Lingerie: Cosabella

Accessories

Handbag: Prada, Anya Hindmarch, Maria Calderana
Watch: Bulgari, Cartier
Shoes: Manolo Blahnik
Sneakers: Puma

Hi-Tech

Mobile Phone: Globe

Others

Restaurant: People's Palace, Good Earth, Furusato, Tsukuji, Shang Palace
Bottled water: Just take hot water to digest
Florist: Mabolo Flower Shop
Soda: Dalandan Soda
Gym: I like to brisk-walk.

IN A WHITE Regatta shirt

PLEATS PLEASE! In an Issey Miyake top

ANIMAL MAGNETISM. In a black & white Bebe top

PARED-DOWN ELEGANCE. Mia wearing Wayne Cooper

Her daughter is a drug addict

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

My 19-year-old daughter is on drugs. I discovered this only recently. I noticed she was losing weight, but I thought it was because she was always with her *barkada*, playing basketball.

Last week, when I went to her bedroom to check if it was clean and orderly, something made me open her jewelry box, and got the shock of my life. The diamond necklace we had given her for her 18th birthday was missing. It was a Tuesday morning, and she would use it only during evenings if she attended a party. A gold ring that was my mother's wedding ring was no longer in its box. The only jewelry left was a gold bracelet.

When she arrived home, I made sure she would be in a good mood, gave her *merienda*, and then I decided to ask her about the missing jewelry. I assured her I would understand. All of a sudden, she cried, and told me the awful truth in-between her sobs. Her best friend was a drug dependent and had convinced her to join in the "fun," as she called it. This was why she had to sell the jewelry to be able to continue buying shabu.

I then convinced her to stop, reminding her what the future would be if she continued the habit. She agreed to stop, asking me for help.

Tita, where can I bring her? She now stays home, telling her friend she does not feel well.

She is eager to go to a rehabilitation center.

CARING BUT WORRIED MOTHER

There are many rehabilitation centers now, like Care of Bob Garon, or Turning Point in Tagaytay. Why not ask the DSWD?

One you might consider is the Amor Rehabilitation Center in San Mateo, Rizal. I understand it has modern facilities and is in a beautiful setting, even with a swimming pool and a basketball court. A friend who is a nurse works there. The staff includes psychiatrists, psychologists, medical doctors, nurses and social workers. Fees: P16,500 a month (one month advance and one month deposit) and P5,000 on admission for miscellaneous fees.

From the way you wrote your letter, you can surely afford them.

For the first month there, a drug- or alcohol-dependent is placed under a self-realization stage, and you cannot yet go to see her. But after that, the resident will have a dialogue with his or her family.

The residents there are aged 15-60. Your 19-year-old daughter will surely feel at home, because she will be with those who are winning their fight against a bad habit. You can call 941-0589 for more information.

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JUNE 2003 ISSUE
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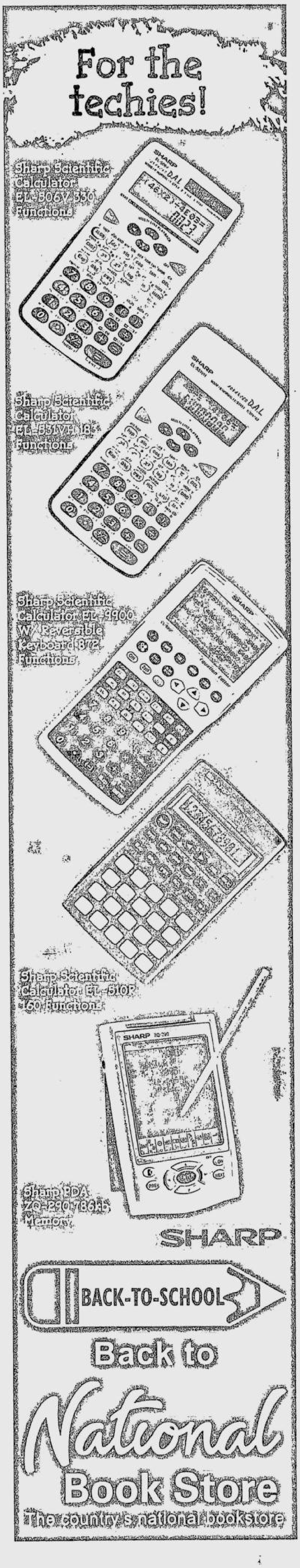
For the techies!

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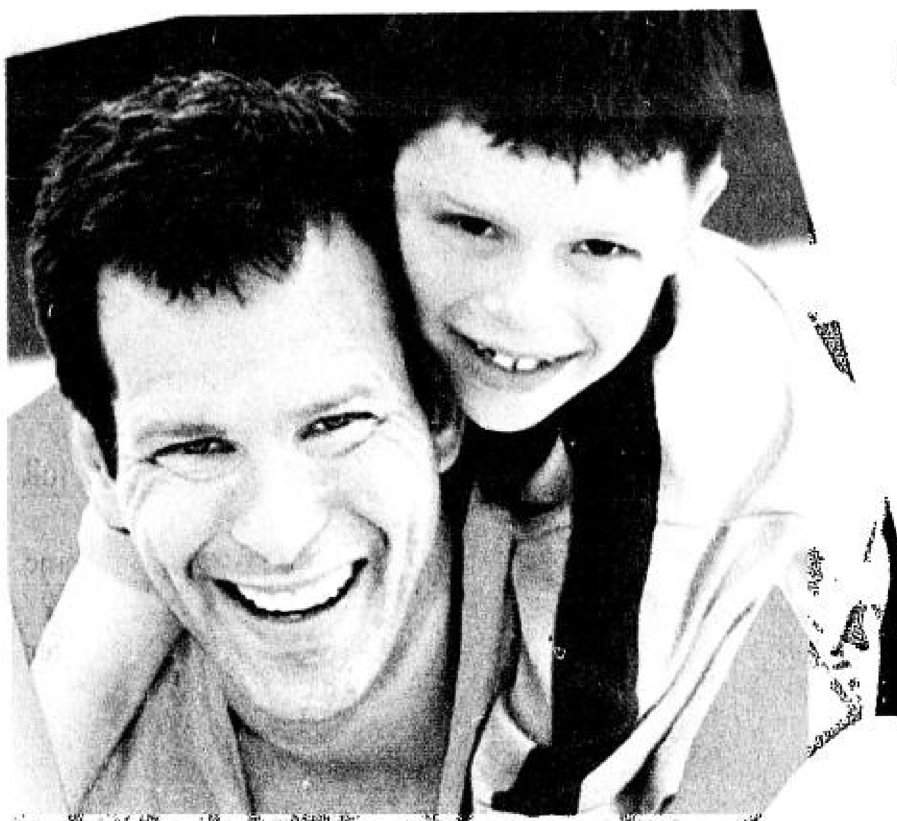
SHARP

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

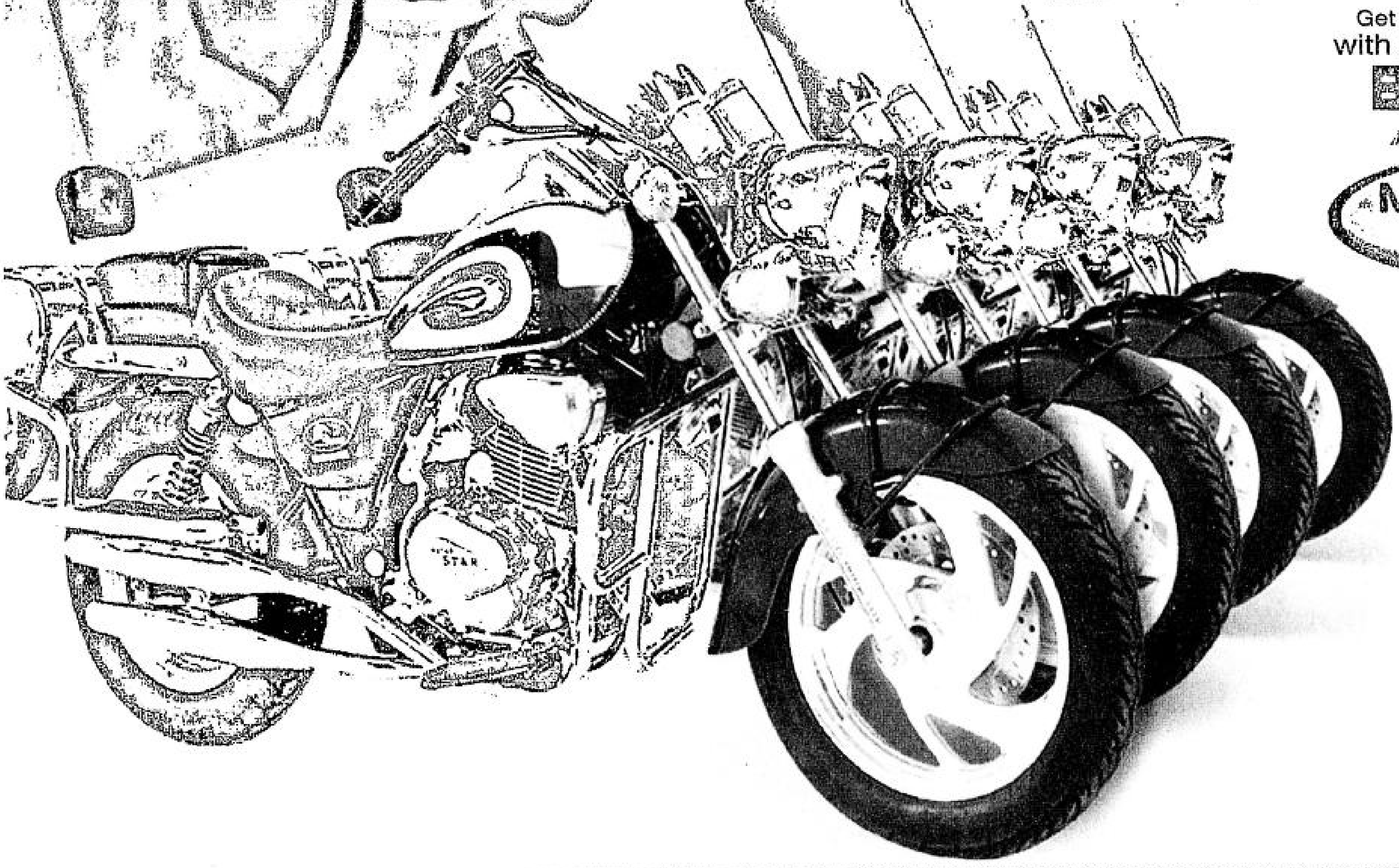
Back to National Book Store
The country's national bookstore



Sunday, June 15 is Father's Day

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

WIN FOR DAD



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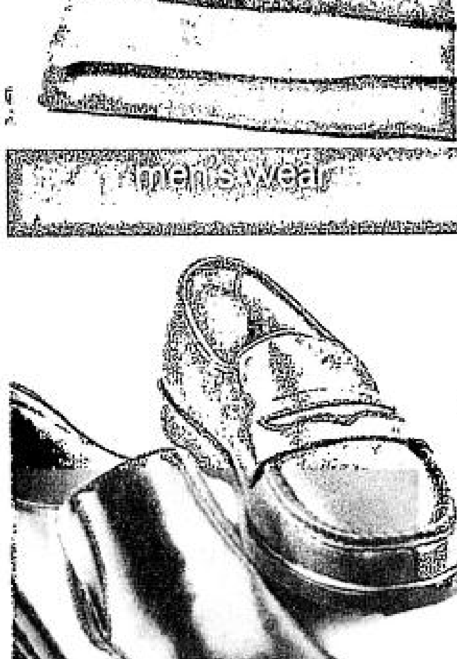
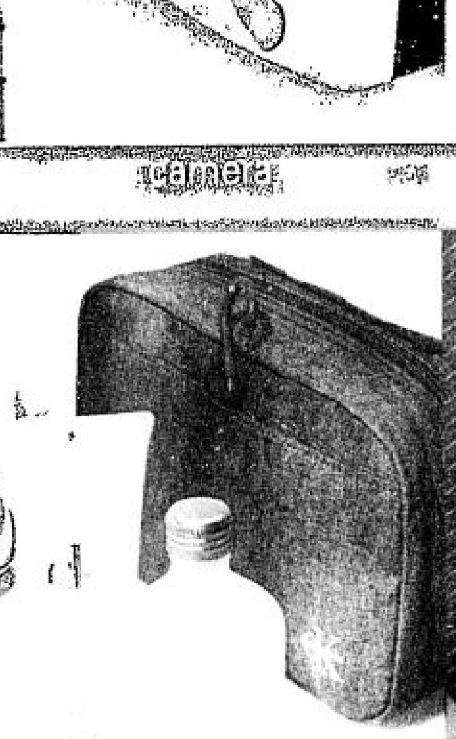
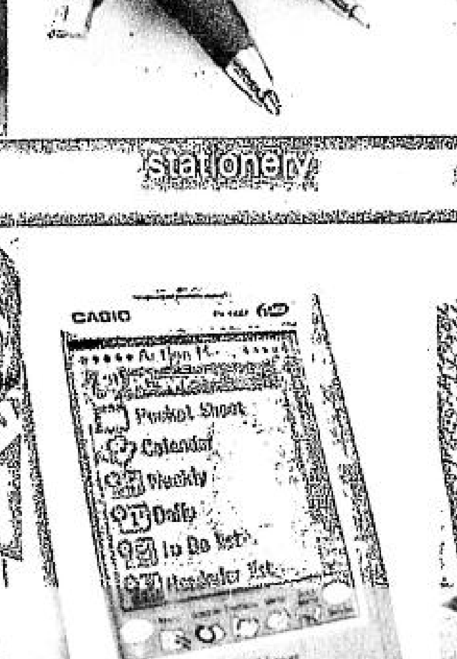


men's wear

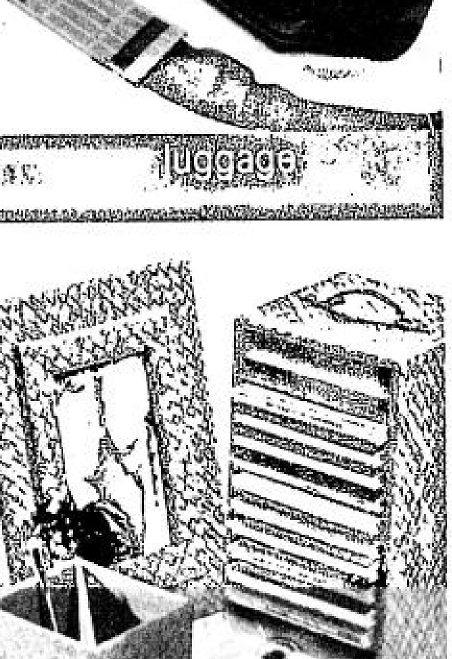


camera

homeworld



stationery



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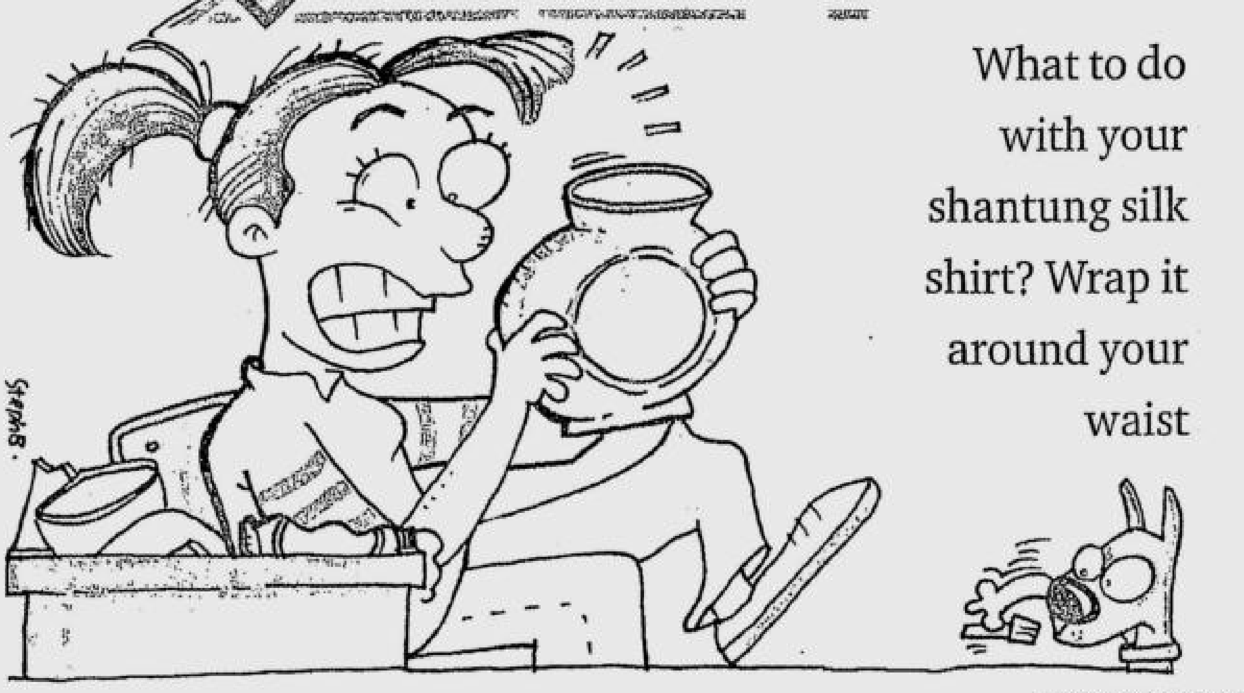
Trend Spotting LIFESTYLE



What to do with your shantung silk shirt? Wrap it around your waist

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Of epoxy stains, wedding fashion superstition and going Sharon Stone

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

I WAS just reading your article regarding helpful stain-removal tips. What about a stain caused by Epoxy glue? I was trying to stick something together with Epoxy when, unfortunately, I dropped some of the glue on my slacks. I tried to wash it off immediately but when it dried up, the stain was still there. I asked the cleaners about it and they said there was nothing more that could be done. Is this true?

I referred your problem to my professional cleaners and the bad news is they also said that nothing can be done to remove an Epoxy stain. They've tried removing stains caused by Epoxy, Mighty Bond and the like in the past, and they have never been successful. They said that further cleaning might result in more damage to the garment.

The good news is I received e-mail from a reader who was raving about a stain remover called Oxyclean. This particular reader is from San Francisco, so she is not certain if Oxyclean is available in Manila. According to her, it's a miracle product in granule form, which you mix with your regular detergent. It is supposedly better than chlorine bleach but it's non-bleach and can be used for colored or white clothing. She also says that it even works for stains that have already set.

Since you don't have any other option at this point, why not try to get hold of some Oxyclean so you can use it to try and remove the stain from your slacks? It's worth a try as it just might work. If it doesn't, you have nothing to lose and you might discover a convenient way of removing other less stubborn stains.

Please let me know what happens.

I live in Hong Kong and I will be attending my sister-in-law's wedding in the Philippines. My father died just last October and we are required to follow the tradition of wearing black for one year. Would it be improper to wear black to the wedding?

There is a whole slew of traditions and superstitions regarding weddings here in the Philippines. And although different cultures all over the world seem to have their own set of rules, we, Filipinos seem to have the monopoly on old wives' tales and the like.

For instance, some people believe that the bride and bridal entourage should not wear pearls during the wedding as these lustrous gems represent tears. Others strongly believe that the bride must not try on her wedding gown as this could bring on bad luck. And yes, others believe that wearing black is a big no-no and is a possible portent of a bad union.

Nowadays, a good number of modern brides do not believe in superstitions. But just as you strongly believe in following the tradition of wearing black for one whole year after your father's death, some brides may also want to follow certain traditions and superstitions.

The best thing to do is to ask your sister-in-law how she feels about your wearing black to her wedding. It's a case-to-case basis, and this is the only way for you to find out how she feels about it. Since you are closely related, I'm sure she won't mind if you bring up the subject.

Maybe the two of you can reach a compromise. If she feels very strongly about someone wearing black in her wedding, maybe you can opt to wear a simple, no-frills white top with a black skirt. At least, you will still be wearing something somber and respectful and yet not offensive to the bride.

Or your sister-in-law might just understand your position and let you wear black. It might not even matter much to her. In any case, you'll never know until you ask, so I strongly suggest that you ask her right away.

OF EPOXY/13

Real People. True Stories.

"I used to scuba dive a lot and that made my skin drier and full of freckles. Then Imedeen came along. Now, my skin feels softer with hardly any blemishes!"

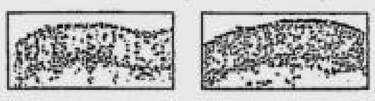
Ereka Therese Gutierrez,
30, Full-time housewife and mom

She may no longer be scuba-diving, but Therese -- a dedicated housewife and mother of three -- remains an active, well-rounded woman. Moreover, despite having to keep a happy home while dabbling in interior design and doing make-overs for special events, she's able to maintain a youthful look.

That's because her skincare includes Imedeen.

Imedeen is a skin care tablet that helps your skin bind essential moisture by nourishing its inner layers. "With Imedeen, the effects of being out in the sun and sea were greatly minimized. My skin's moisture balance improved, making it less dry. Even my freckles are hardly visible now!"

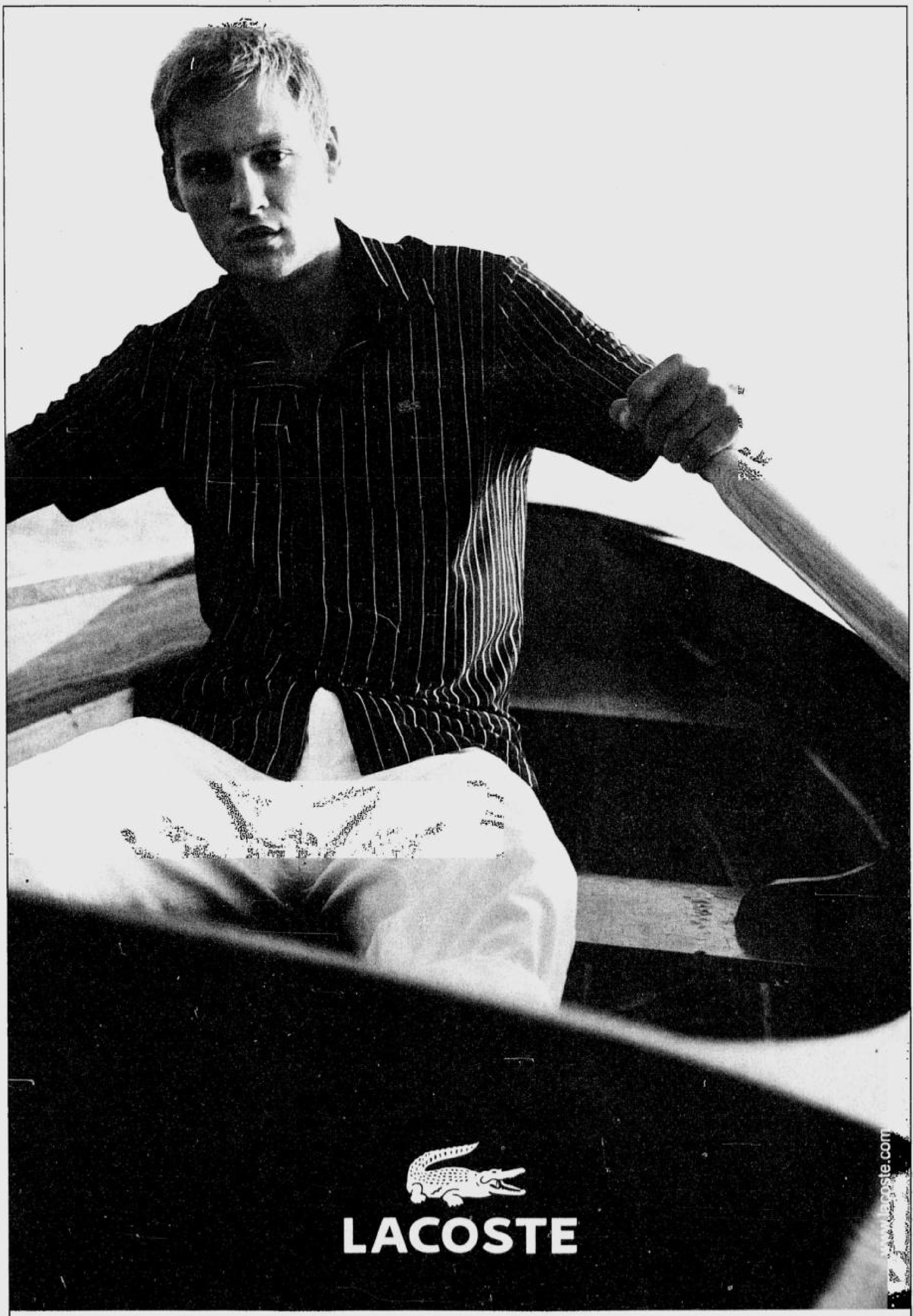
And Therese's husband has noticed, constantly complimenting his wife about her refreshing glow. Reveals Therese, "He says I'm even more attractive now and I think it's because I discovered Imedeen." Imedeen. The Skin Care Tablet.



Ultrasound images of the skin structure: denser structure implies better support and ability to hold moisture

Clinically Proven

The Skin Care Tablet



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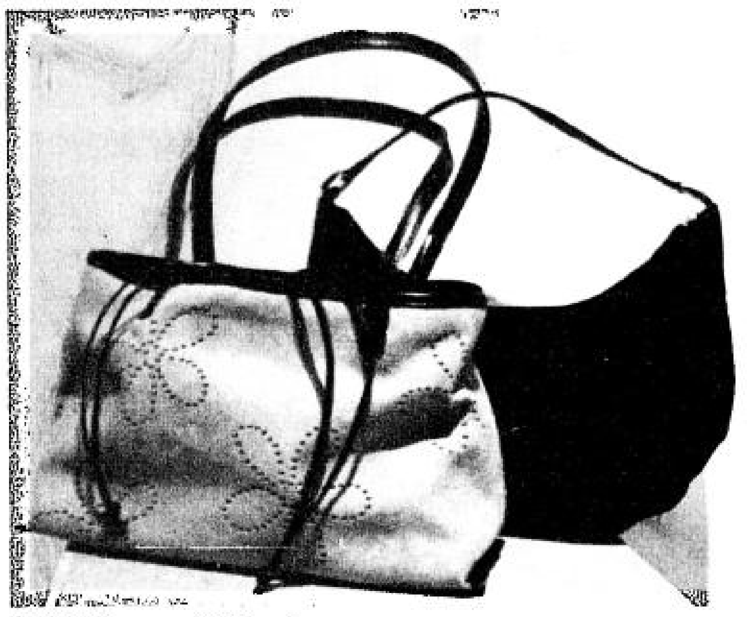
CLASSIC urban chic, P599-799



FLOWER power, P650 each

GLAMOUR bags, P450-700

Grab that bag!

Whimsy seeks to satisfy every woman's tote-craving

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

NEXT to shoes, a woman is passionate about bags.

But like all loves, not all women get to bring home the bag they want. The cost of a bag, like love, can sometimes be heartbreaking. So should women give up on love (for bags) altogether?

"It doesn't hurt to buy a bag you like and replace it a couple of weeks later if it costs less than P700," says Cecily Mabasa, owner and designer of Whimsy. The bag boutique carries a wide collection of both fancy purses and utilitarian bags—all reasonably priced at less than P1,000. For P299, a woman can change bags as often as she changes... boyfriends?

Mabasa came back to the Philippines after pursuing a degree in design at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. She had wanted to fill a niche missing in the RP market: an affordable local product that's not indigenous and solely for the local market.

"My family has long been manufacturing bags for other brands and for export," says the 32-year-old. "Since we have our own manufacturing facility, Whimsy bags are cheaper. We don't overcharge."

She adds, though, that cheaper doesn't mean inferior quality. Ninety-nine percent of Whimsy's materials are imported from Italy and Spain. They use canvas, suede and baby kid leather. "You can see that our bags don't look like the ones from Hong Kong," she says of the run-of-the-mill China-made bags that have saturated the RP market.

Broader market

Mabasa admits she had initially aimed Whimsy at the younger crowd, which explains the name and the overall *kikay* look of her three outlets. At first, the styles were mainly for casuals and night-outs. "But I noticed that daughters usually come to the store with their moms. Then office women started to come in, too... I think they're attracted to the colors," she says.

Thus, her then pastel-dominated collections now sit next to muted neutrals like beiges, camels and the ubiquitous blacks. Corporate styles are displayed side by side with citrus-orange and baby-pink totes.

Mabasa, who apprenticed with the American leathergoods brand Coach, insists, though, that Filipino women are now adventurous with bags. "In the same manner that older women no longer dress their age, so is their taste for bags." Of course, the more conservative can always get the same pink bag in camel for a more mature look, she adds.

This UP business administration magna cum laude admits she gets her kick out of being an artist more than being an entrepreneur. She designs the entire Whimsy line with one of her sisters; her siblings are also her business partners.

"Since we started, we have sold over 200 designs," she proudly says. New designs come out almost every week. Their bestsellers run out fast in just a week. "We hardly ever repeat our designs. The lifespan of a design is a couple of months."

Innovations

Alongside the recent introduction of shoes to complement the bags ("a surprise hit"), Whimsy will soon carry more printed materials, new colors and festive beaded designs for the holidays. Currently fast moving are darker colored bags to match students' uniforms.

Whimsy will also soon be available in Cebu and Bacolod. The Mabasas are also negotiating to make the Whimsy line available online through a California-based website.

Though the 18-month-old brand is doing very well, Mabasa laments the Filipino mindset that views local products as not good enough as foreign ones. "That's not true at all," she insists, and rattles off the names of other high-quality local bag makers. "And because it's not imported, they expect it to be cheap. With Whimsy, we're giving them high-quality bags at the prices they want."

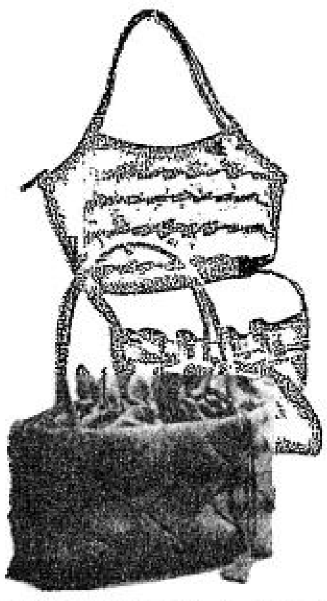
For buyers with specific designs in mind, Whimsy recently introduced its made-to-order service—perhaps the first and only bag maker to offer the service. The response has, so far, been good.

She says clients can pick out a design from the store and add their own input: a bigger size, a different color, a longer strap. Others can bring in clippings from magazines or even their own designs. They can even bring their own material. Soon, Whimsy will offer more intricate jobs like beadings.

Since delivery can take two weeks to a month, Mabasa says "some are not very patient so they just pick from the shelf." But bag lovers shouldn't be discouraged because the made-to-order prices are as affordable as the off-the-shelf designs. The cost can run up to P2,000 only when a special material has to be ordered abroad.

Now if only a woman can order the love of her life custom-made to her liking.

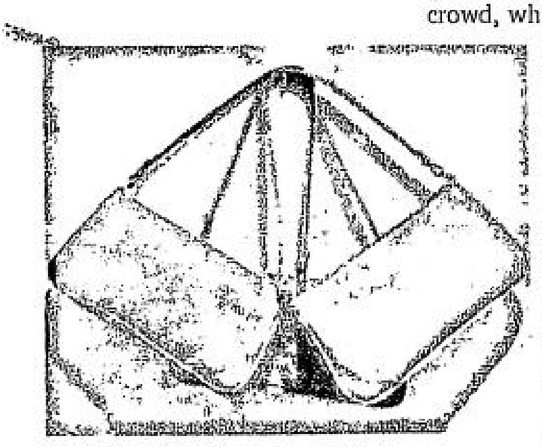
Whimsy stores are located at 2/L Glorietta 3 (tel. 893-2152); Upper Level, Greenhills Theater Mall (722-5611); and SM City North Edsa Annex.



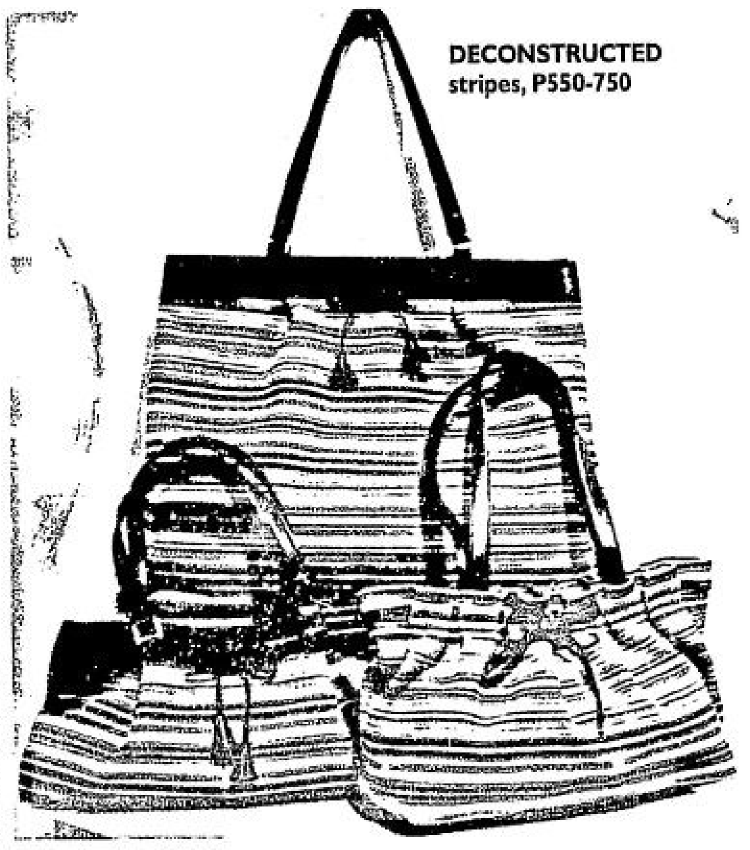
UNSTRUCTURED blacks, P650-790

CECILY Mabasa, Whimsy owner and designer, indulges every girl's bag fancy.

WHIMSICAL ruffles, P659-699



SHOULDER sling bags, P395 each



DECONSTRUCTED stripes, P550-750

WHIMSICAL urban bags, P400-700

BAGS with a twist, P650-700

Of epoxy stains . . .

From page L1

I was rummaging through my closet when I rediscovered a champagne-colored shantung silk shirt I had tailor-made several years ago. Since I have lost some weight, it fits me loosely. I figured I could just wrap it around and cinch it at the waist (similar to what Sharon Stone did with her husband's shirt during the Oscar's several years back). I was also wondering if I could wear it with a skirt in another shimmery fabric. Recently, I bought a lilac knee-length, bias-cut skirt made of satin. I'm also thinking of pairing it with black capris and gem-embellished thongs. I'm 30 years old, and I'm worried that it might make me look "matronly." Any suggestions?

You seem to be a good judge of what's stylish and fashionable. It's a great idea to wear your rediscovered shirt a la Sharon Stone. Just because it fits loosely doesn't mean you can't wear it anymore. You just have to find a more interesting way of wearing it, which you did!

Sure you can match it with skirts or pants in shimmery fabrics. In fact, champagne and lavender are a pretty combination, and matching two kinds of iridescent or shiny fabrics will give your outfit a modern edge. Just make sure your top, which is tailored and made of silk shantung, is not too structured for your satin skirt.

It's a novel idea to wear your top with black capris and jewel-encrusted thongs. This look is far from matronly and definitely high in style, so go ahead and don your attire.

When you get tired of wearing your shirt wrapped around and cinched at the waist, you can also try wearing it with the two front panels overlapping each other. Since you will not make use of the buttons, simply tuck the shirt into your pants or skirt so it holds. If you feel conscious about the deep neckline this look creates, you may wear a tube top in another iridescent fabric. A simple nude or black tube will also do.

To update your look, create a sleek, sophisticated silhouette by matching your blouse with a knee-length pencil skirt in brocade or other luxe fabrics and high heels. You can also try wearing it with your pantsuits for a modern menswear look. And for a sexy twist, wear it with jeans, high-heeled metallic sandals and chandelier earrings.

Experiment and enjoy yourself as you continue to create varied fashionable ensembles, all thanks to your rediscovered silk shantung shirt.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

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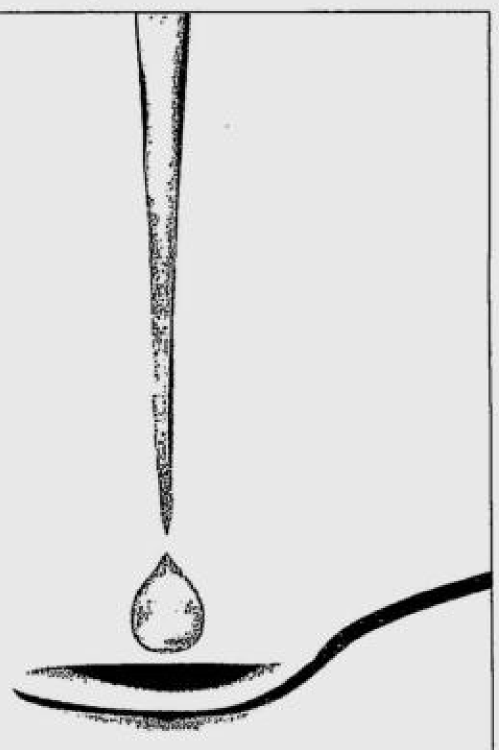

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Shu Uemura turns 20 with lavish gifts to women

MAKEOVER 911

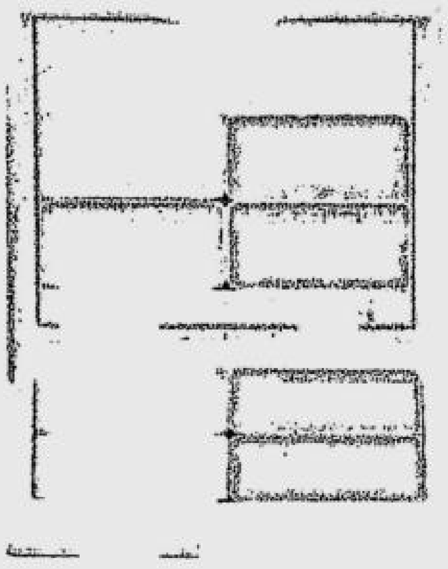
Kinny Salas

JUNE 19 1983, Omotesando, Japan: The first Shu Uemura boutique was launched. It was indeed a great day as it was also Shu Uemura's birthday.

Now on its 20th year, Shu Uemura offers special discounted beauty packages in limited edition to all of Shu's faithful patrons. This year's "Boutique Birthday" (BB) theme is "Aura."

As always, Shu Uemura takes into account consumer preference and personality. That is why the limited edition star products come in two palettes—**BB Aura-Spectra**, for the effervescent, and **BB Aura-Nude**, for the classic and the demure.

Kinny's choice: BB Aura Spectra palette contains the **Spectra Powder** (translucent loose powder with very fine silver shimmer) that makes the face and the body glow like a pearl; **Spectra Eye-Shadow Palette of four** (iridescent, white and orange, pale pink, and pink) and **Liquid Lip Rouges in Aura Spectra** (rosy pink) and **Aura White** (mother of pearl), which give a pale pink/lavender finish and make thin lips look fuller.



SHU Uemura Spectra Eye-Shadow

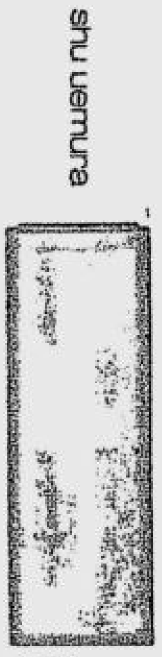
Safe option and the choice of most: **BB Aura Nude: Nude Powder** (translucent with fine gold shimmer), which gives a bronze hue; **Nude Eye Color Palette** (beige, dark brown, olive and black), **Aura Nude Liquid Lip** (nude pinky brown) and **Aura White** (mother of pearl).

Price list: Powder, P1,950 each; Eye-Shadow Palette, P2, 995; Liquid Lip, P1,300.

Best-selling skincare

As an extra treat, Shu Uemura has extended the promo for the **Starter Kit**, which is a generous miniature set of its best-selling skincare and universal palette makeup. More than the Aura collection, this is what I consider the best package of all time! Contains: 50 ml cleansing oil balancer; 50 ml Moisture Lotion a.k.a. toner; and 10 ml Beta-G emulsion (reverses skin damage, improves elasticity, and strengthens skin).

Universal MakeUp: This is why I didn't choose the Aura Nude collection. If you have this, all you need from the Aura Nude collection is the Aura Nude Loose Powder. The Universal collection includes Glow on Blush in P 87-A amber with gold sparkles, P103-Baby pink and P 874-Cocoa brown eye shadow, limited edition floral scented lip gloss (peachy pink with gold shimmer), a mini pony blush brush (which distributes color the way a natural flush would, not striped like other packaged brushes), a Sable e/s brush, and a sponge tip applicator—all in a mesh bag. This is a perfect gift as a girl's first skincare and makeup set. Actual value is easily P7,500, but this starter set is P4, 500 till supplies last.



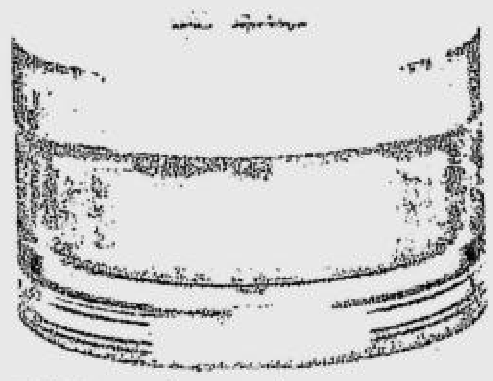
AURA Spectra lip rouge

Even out skin tone and lighten/brighten overall complexion. This set was created to repair/prevent skin damage from the strong summer sun. If you purchase the Whitening Cream for P2,950 you get the whitening recovery kit starter for an extra P2,000. This limited edition set's price is P4,000 and contains: a white terry cloth stretch headband, 50 ml light cleansing oil, 50 ml whitening lotion (toner), a Whitening Lipo (freeze dried vitamin C to be mixed with), FD water, and 10 ml Whitening Essence (goes under cream). Note: Once vitamin C powder and FD water are mixed, the mixture will last for only seven days. Solution has to be refrigerated also. The solution faded my pimple marks and made the minor (visible only at very close range) sun-damaged discoloration of my face and neck disappear after a week.

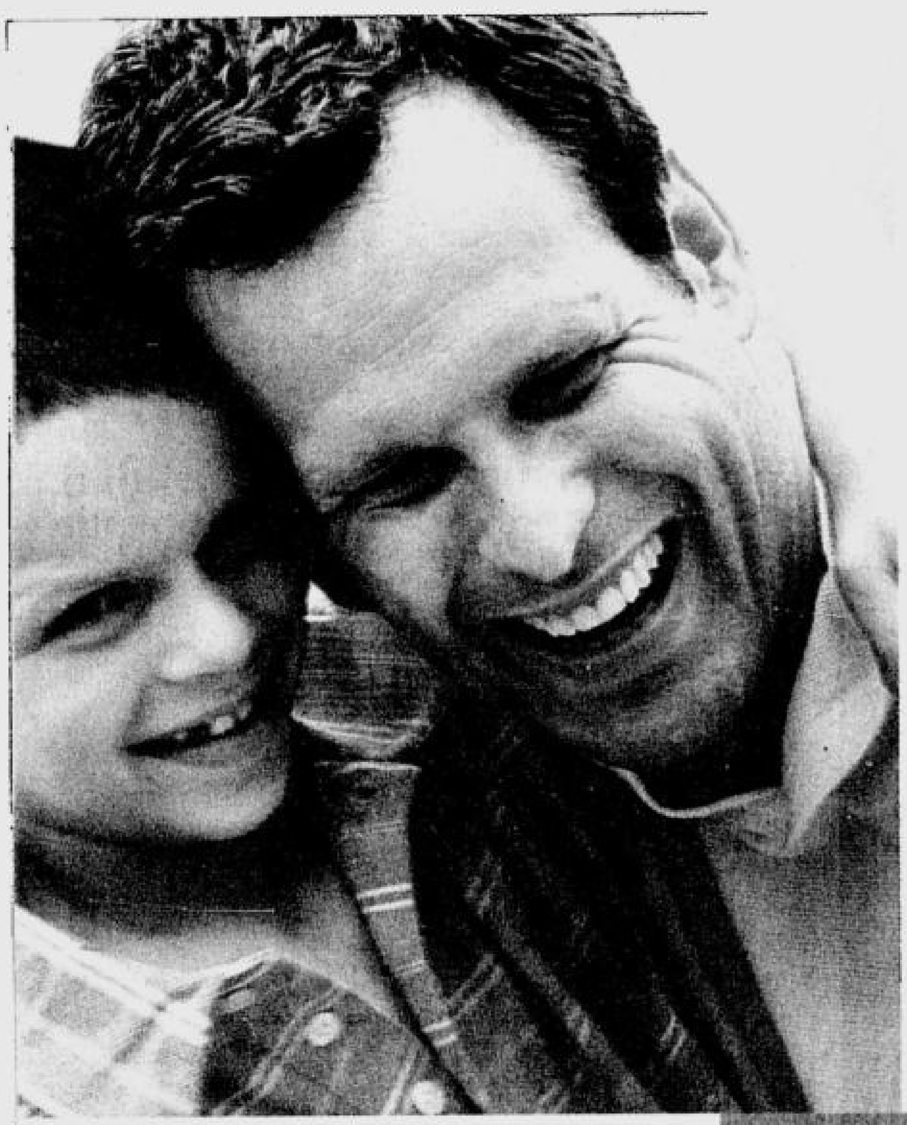
AURA White lip rouge

Shu Uemura available at Rustan's Tower, Shangri-La Edsa and Makati

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com



SHU Uemura loose powder



celebrate FATHER'S day
treat him special at SM

64K supersim Buddy
SMART Simply Amazing!

a tribute to dad

Brighten up Dad's afternoons with special shows featuring celebrity Dads and their kids

June 15 / 4 pm	SM Supercenter Sucat	John Prats with Dad
June 15 / 4 pm	SM City Manila	Michael de Mesa & AJ Eigenman
June 15 / 4 pm	SM Southmall	Eddie Katindig & Henry Katindig
June 15 / 4 pm	SM City Sta. Mesa	Freddie Aguilar & Maegan Aguilar
June 20 / 4 pm	SM City Bacoor	Noel Trinidad & Gary Lising with kids
June 20 / 4 pm	SM City Bicutan	William Martinez & daughter

dads in style

Watch young Dads strut the runway in style featuring
Criterion STREETJEANS

June 13 / 5 pm	SM City North Edsa	Entertainment Plaza
June 22 / 5 pm	SM City Cebu	Entertainment Plaza
June 28 / 5 pm	SM City Bacoor	Centermall, LG

cooking for dad

Find your way to Dad's heart through his stomach! The finest chefs will teach you to whip up dishes that will please his palate!

June 12 / 2-5 pm	SM City Pampanga	Activity Area
June 13 / 1-3 pm	SM City North Edsa	Entertainment Plaza
June 15 / 11 am -2 pm	SM Megamall	Atrium A
June 20 / 2-5 pm	SM Supercenter Sucat	Center Atrium
June 20 / 1-3 pm	SM City Manila	Entertainment Plaza,5F
June 21 / 1-3 pm	SM City Bicutan	Entertainment Plaza

TEFAL

sing-along with dad

Time for Dad to be celebrity of the day
Let him pick his favorite song and start singin' away!

June 10, 11 & 12	SM City Fairview	Centermall, LG
June 12, 13 & 14	SM City Bicutan	Centermall Bldg.B
June 14, 15 & 16	SM Supercenter Sucat	Center Atrium
June 17, 18 & 19	SM City Pampanga	Activity Area

MagnaVision HOME VIDEO

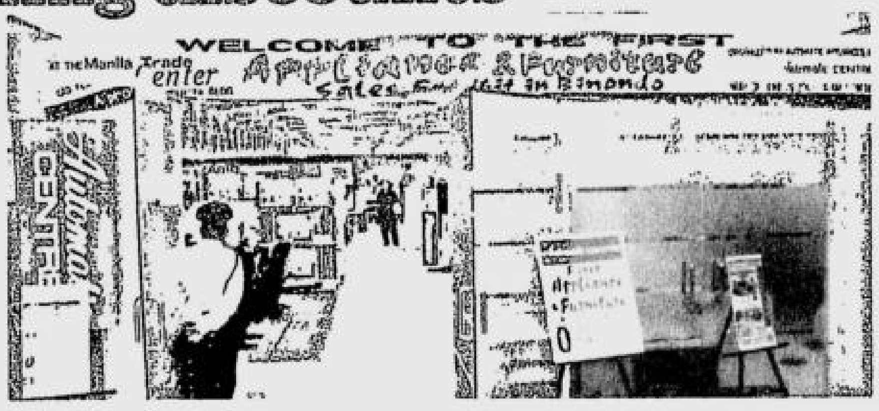
Treat dad to a delightful eating experience
Treat dad to fabulous fun
Treat dad to a super shopping adventure

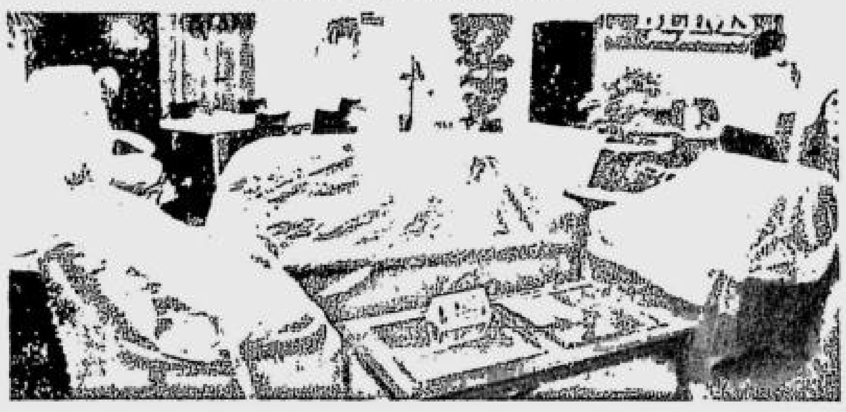
SM SUPERMALLS
SM CITY NORTH EDSA • SM CITY FAIRVIEW • SM MEGAMALL ORTIGAS • SM CITY STA. MESA • SM CITY MANILA • SM CITY BICUTAN • SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT • SM SOUTHMALL LAS PIÑAS • SM CITY BACOOR • SM CITY PAMPANGA • SM CITY CEBU • SM CITY ILOILO • SM CITY DAVAO • SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO.

Automatic CENTRE

invites you to Binondo's First Ever Appliance & Furniture Exhibit

where it's raining discounts and prizes

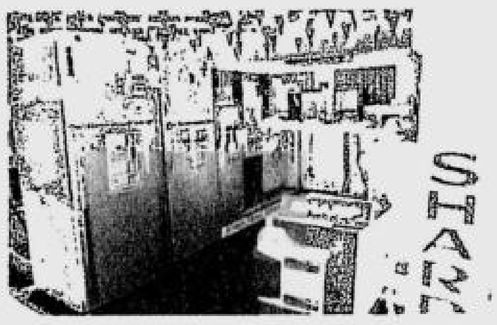

WELCOME TO THE FIRST
at the Manila Trade Center
Appliance & Furniture Sales Exhibit in Binondo
Automatic CENTRE



SUMMER'S almost over with the rains starting to come, and at **Automatic Centre's** first appliance and furniture exhibit in Binondo, it is raining discounts, zero-percent interest on installment, and prizes in their promotion.

This is the first furniture and appliance exhibit of **Automatic Centre** in Binondo currently being held at the Manila Trade Center, a new showcase venue on the ground floor of the Federation Center Building and which runs until June 28. The building is home to the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCCCI).

The Federation Center Building is located at Muelle de Binondo near the corner of Dasmariñas Street. The premier exhibit site was recently inaugurated by no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.



The fair is a trip down memory lane as **Automatic Centre** traces its roots to downtown Manila, on Rizal Avenue, where its first store opened for business in 1948. Fifty-five years later, and with branches all over major shopping malls in the metropolis, **Automatic Centre** has served three generations of customers and has sold more appliances than any other dealer since then.

In the exhibit, customers can choose from top appliance brands which include Carrier, Casio, Changhong, Condura, Dowell, Elba, Frigidaire, Haier, Midea, Hanabishi, JVC, Hyundai, Kelvinator, Kolin, LG, Moulinex, National, Panasonic, Omron, Philips, Pioneer, Sony, Whirlpool and White-Westinghouse. Imported furniture by **Blims Fine Furniture** are also on display at the exhibit which is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Participating credit card companies include AIG, Bankard, BPI Card, Citibank, Diners Club, Equitable Card, HSBC, Metrobank and Standard Chartered.

Here's a tempting treat for credit card users. Reduced interest rates can be enjoyed on credit card installment purchases. Plus, you can avail of the **"0% Interest"** installment plans up to 12 months on selected items. **Free** premium items will also be given on selected appliance purchases.

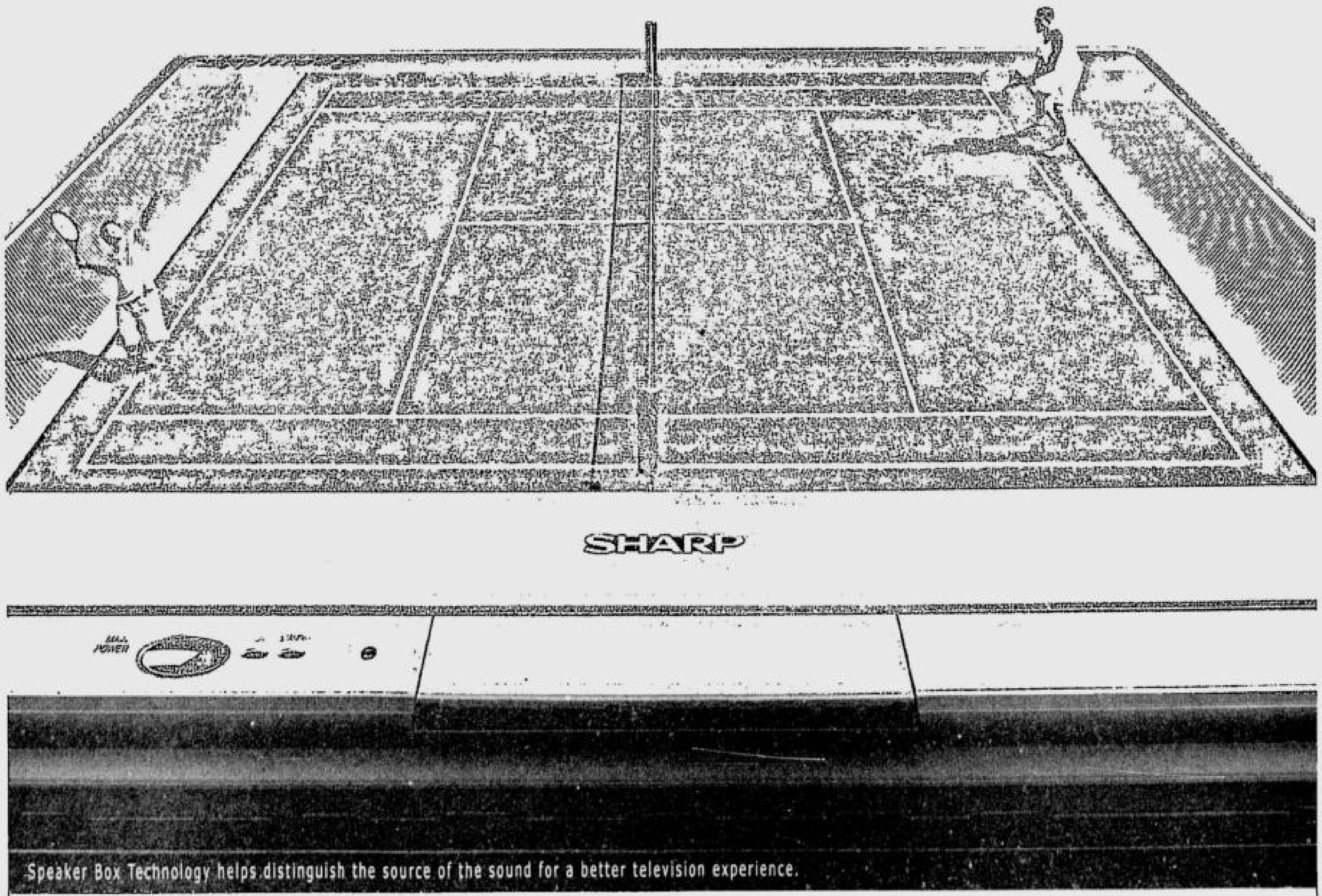
And here's an added bonus! A minimum P500 purchase gives you the chance to win in the **"Cool Summer Scratch"** Instant Prize and Raffle Promo. There are over 20,000 prizes to be won in the promotion. In fact, **over 9,000 customers** have already become instant prize winners.

Best of all, since it's **Automatic Centre**, you're assured that the most affordable cash prices are offered on all appliances on display. And with Automatic Centre's **Money-Back Guarantee**, you're **price-protected** for 14 days from the date of purchase, so you can always buy with confidence. In addition, with the **Warranty Plus** option, you can extend your appliance's one-year factory warranty up to five years. Pay only once and choose the additional coverage you want.

Visit and shop at Automatic Centre's **Appliance and Furniture Exhibit in Binondo** today and enjoy the latest in home entertainment and home convenience items in the comfort and safety of your home.

SHARP

Sharp Aphrody with Speaker Box Technology.
Now you can tell if the sound comes from the left or from the right.



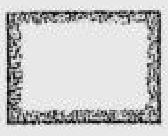
Speaker Box Technology helps distinguish the source of the sound for a better television experience.

Other features: Pure Flat CRT • High Picture Quality • Dynamic Sound Enhancer DVD/Component Video Input Terminal • 181 Channel Cable Compatible PLL Tuner • Built-in Closed Caption Decoder • Energy Save Function • Auto Volt

Featured product: 29V-FL250S

Other Aphrody models available:

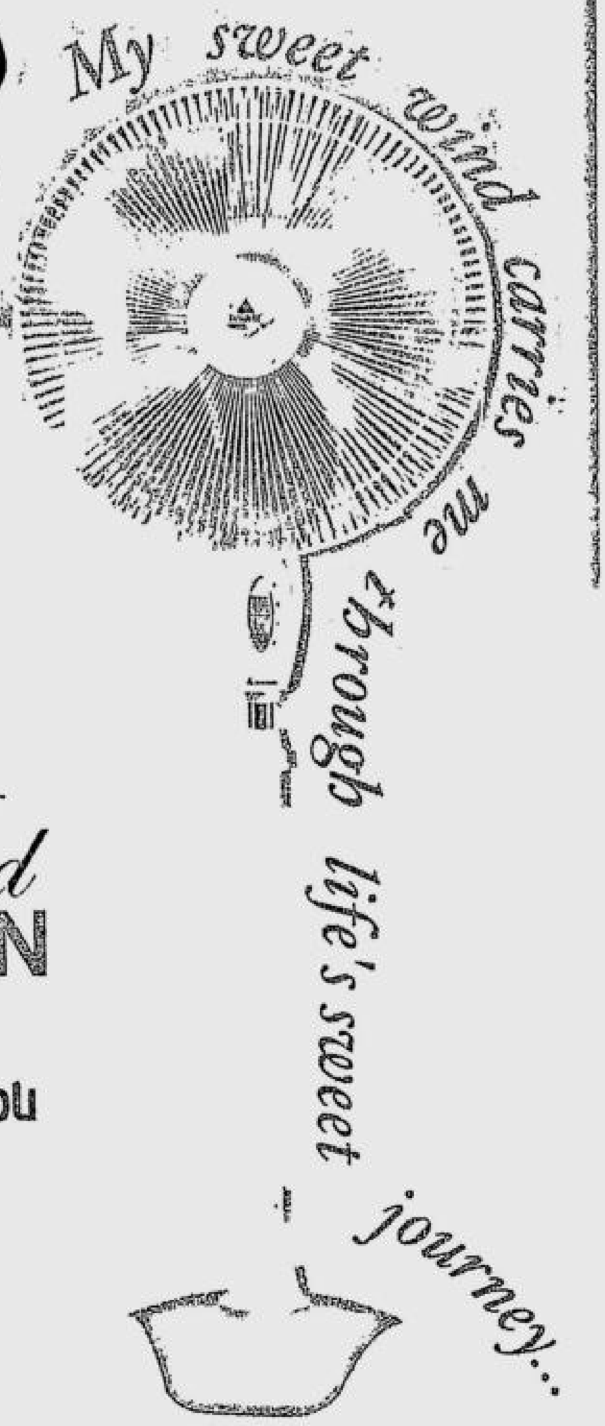
21V-FL250S


29V-FL250S

Visit our website, www.sharp.ph.

Automatic CENTRE

wanna be COOL? TAKE ME!


My sweet wind carries me through life's sweet journey...

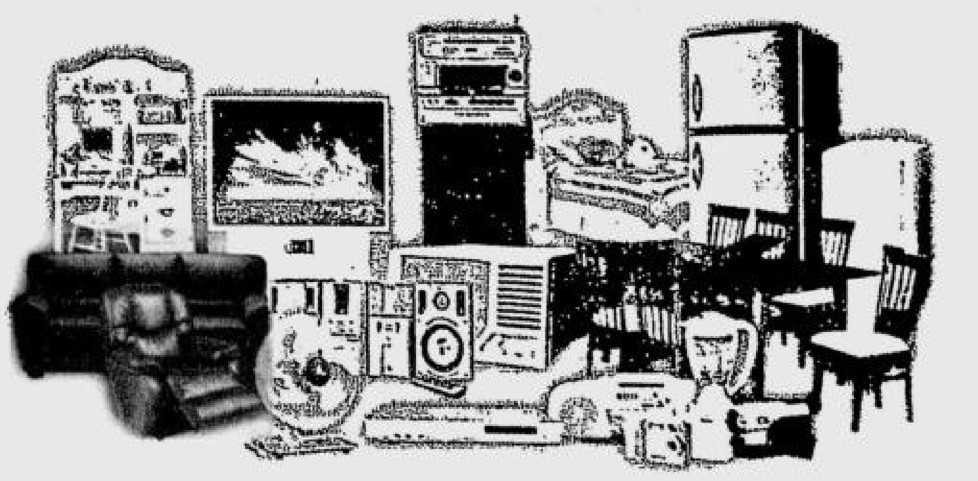
HANABISHI
Sweet Wind
STAND FAN

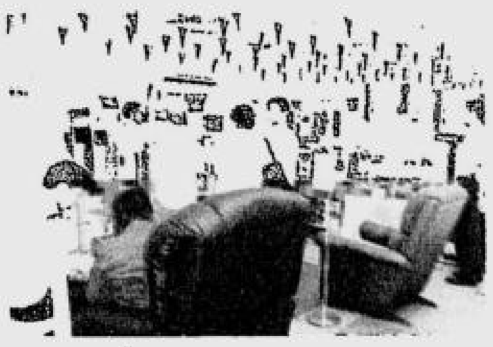
Will stand beside you
to keep you cool
& comfortable
24 hours a day.

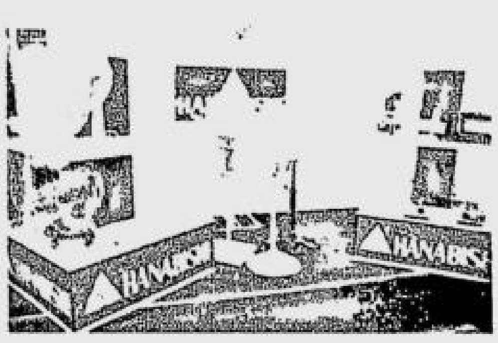
HANABISHI
Your Satisfaction is our Guarantee!

Available at all leading appliance and department store nationwide.

Appliance & Furniture Exhibit







Skin is in: A showcase of La Nuova fine Italian leather collections

ITALIAN leather is without a doubt, a premier element in today's finer lifestyle statements. And for leather lovers and those with discriminating taste, Blims fine furniture, the leader and trendsetter in creating the art of fine living, together with interior designer Leo Almeria of the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers (PIID), has transformed the Ayala Mall of Glorietta 3 into a magnificent showcase of fine Italian leather collection.

Leo Almeria has artistically fashioned 10 vignettes, each a living space showcasing the myriad mood variations and lifestyles that leather can create. The sofas and loveseats featured are exquisite grade genuine Italian leather crafted by La Nuova. With Alemria's superb mix-matching of colors, accessories and accents, the ten vignettes exude the distinctive character and personality of the featured habitués: the newlyweds (Raggiante), new breed of bachelors (Fresco), chic woman (Lucente), independent, modern woman (Rossore), passionate, adventurous bachelors, artists, strategists, trailblazers (Greggio), confident and stable men (Scuro), elegant, fine lady (Dolce), busy, dashing debonair (Perfetto), carefree vet, creative (Camaleonte) and perfect guest entertainer, ideal family living space (Mescolanza). Casual yet elegant is how Leo describes the exhibit.

The "Skin is in" Italian leather collection will run up to June 14 at the Ayala Mall, Glorietta 3, Makati City. The show is being put up in cooperation with Sony Wega Theater, Portico 1771 Italian No Borders Cuisine and Tai Ping carpets.

Automatic CENTRE
Cool Summer Scratch!
Over 20,000 prizes to be WON!
Instant Prizes!
Grand Raffle Prizes!

You can WIN an Instant prize and WIN in the Grand Raffle!

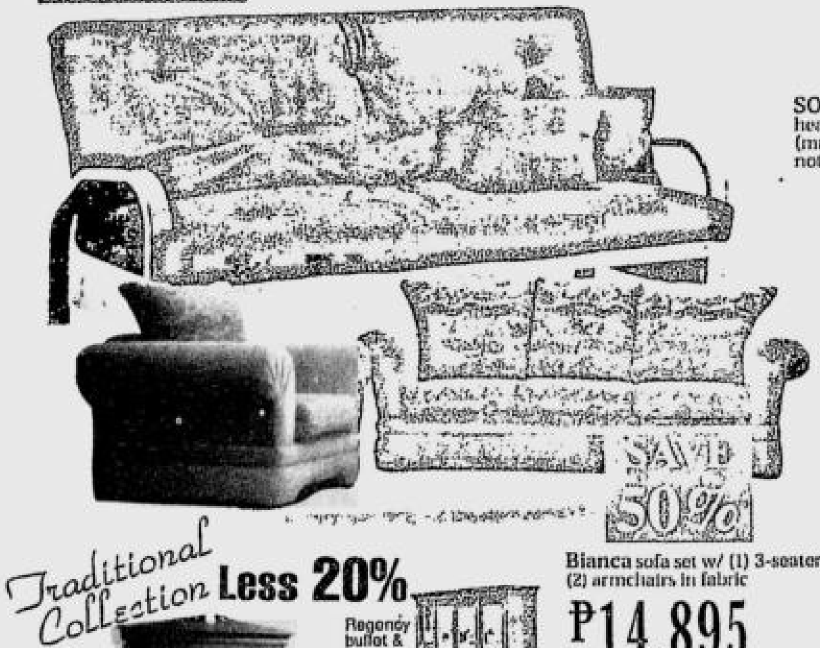
A minimum P500 purchase gives you the chance to win in the promotion! See posters for details

Guaranteed Lowest Prices ...or your money back!

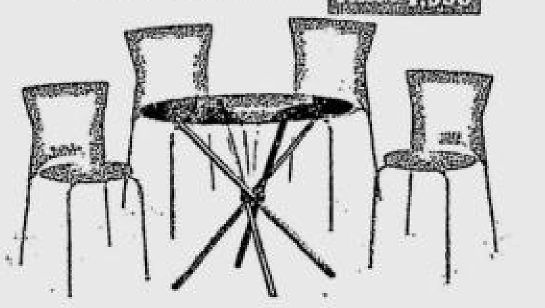
BLIMS 25 Years

BLIMS Mid YEAR Price Sale
Up to 50% OFF
May 16 to June 15, 2003

JocoItalia "New Onda" futon sofa bed imported from Italy
₱16,995
Regular Price P24,900
SAVE P7,905



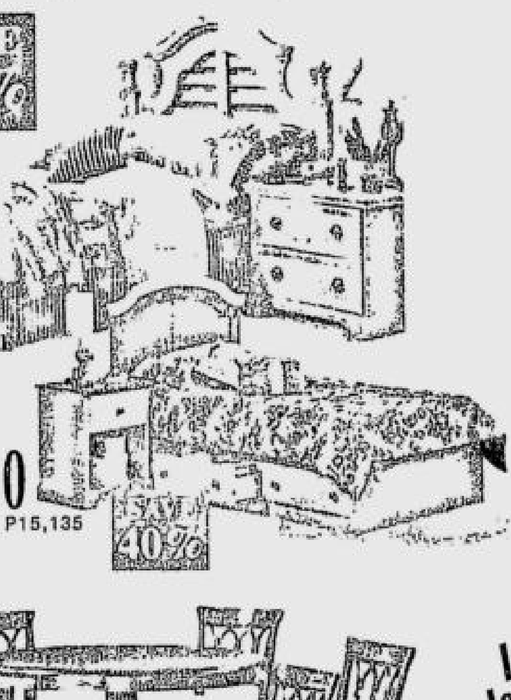
Chopstick round table w/ tempered glass top w/ (4) Siri chairs in chrome frame
Introductory Price ₱4,990



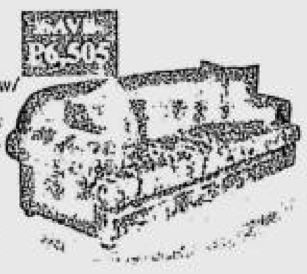
SAVE 50%

SOUTHSHORE # 755-202 queen size headboard, and (2) 755-062 night tables (mattress, bedframe & accessories not included)
₱15,998
Regular Price P31,996

SOUTHSHORE #418 single headboard w/ (1) 062 night table, oak/ garden finish
₱8,990
Regular Price P15,135

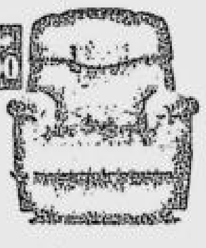


SAVE P6,505



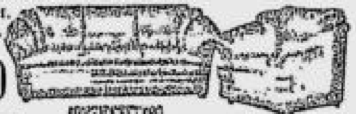
Annika sofa set w/ (1) 3-seater, & (1) 2-seater w/ throw pillow & (1) stool, fabric
₱18,995
Regular Price P25,500

SAVE P5,200



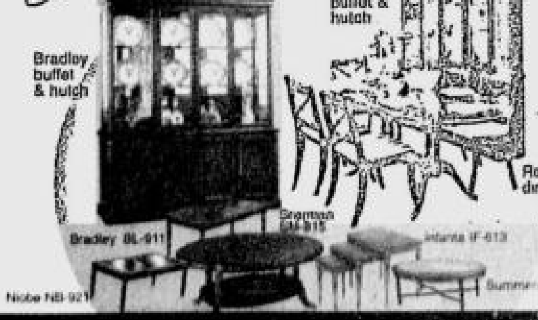
LA-Z-BOY #1MG-515 "Lancer" Chaise Massage Heat Rocker Recliner, 6-motor massager in fabric
₱46,800
Regular Price P52,000

Czarinah sofa set w/ (1) 3-seater, (2) armchairs, leatherette
₱17,500
Regular Price P21,895



SAVE P4,395

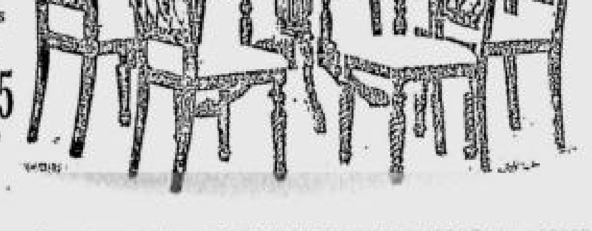
Traditional Collection Less 20%



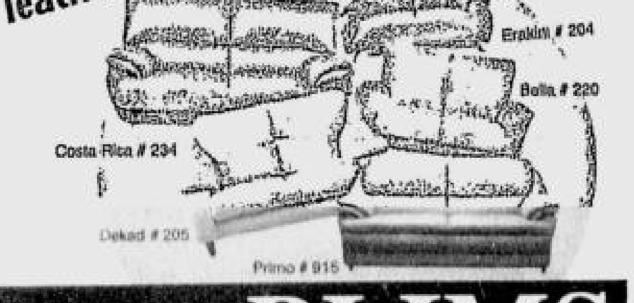
Bianca sofa set w/ (1) 3-seater, & (2) armchairs in fabric
₱14,895
Regular Price P29,790

SAVE 20%

Viola dining set for 6 includes (1) round table, (6) dining chairs w/ cushion in dirty oak finish
₱25,995
Regular Price P32,600



La Nouva leather sofas Less 20%



Sale price on cash purchases only. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1231 Series of 2003

MAKATI
6797 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St. (formerly Herrera St.)
893-6556 • 893-6558 • 893-6559

Greenbelt 1, Level 2
810-8014 to 15 • 810-6653

Glorietta 1, Level 2
867-2350 • 867-4656

MANILA
Robinsons Place Manila, Level 3
525-0007 • 525-0031

QUEZON CITY
Robinsons Place Novaliches, Level 1, Main Mall
935-8924 • 935-8920

SAN JUAN
2/F Greenhills Lifestyle Center (formerly Manilabank Arcade) Greenhills Shopping Center
705-1411 • 705-1391

ORTIGAS
Robinsons Galleria, Level 3, Expansion Mall
Tel Nos. 633-8202 • 632-0675

LAS PIÑAS
SM Southmall, Level 2
800-5317 to 18

MUNTINLUPA
Alabang Town Center, New Wing, Level 3
809-4639 • 809-3410

Festival Supermall, Level 2
850-3543 • 850-3540

CEBU
Ayala Center, Level 3
(032) 232-1082 to 83

BLIMS
fine furniture

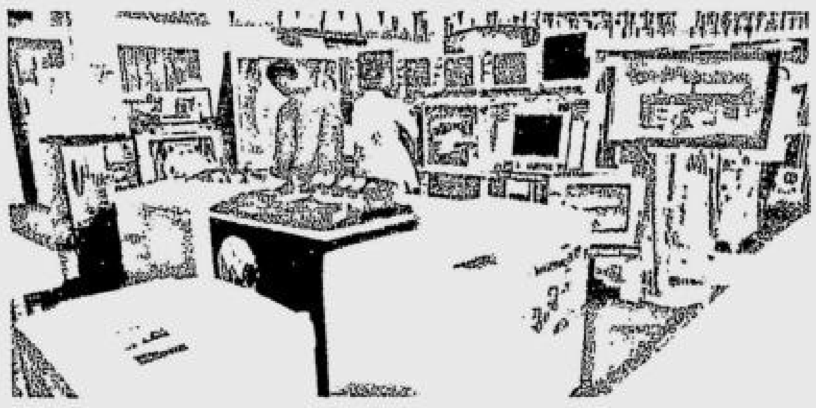
Automatic CENTRE

0% Interest

Installment Plans

All major credit cards are accepted at Automatic Centre's First Appliance and Furniture Exhibit at the Manila Trade Center in Binondo. Selected models of the following brands are offered at zero-percent interest up to 12 months.

Appliance & Furniture Exhibit



SONY

Handycam &
Cybershot

JVC

Video Cameras

Pioneer

VCD, DVD &
Home Theater
Systems

Panasonic

Video Cameras

PHILIPS

Projection TV,
Flat TV & DVD
Home Theater
Systems

LG

Flat TV, DVD
Systems, No-
Frost Refs &
Washers

White-Westinghouse

Washing
Machines

Electrolux

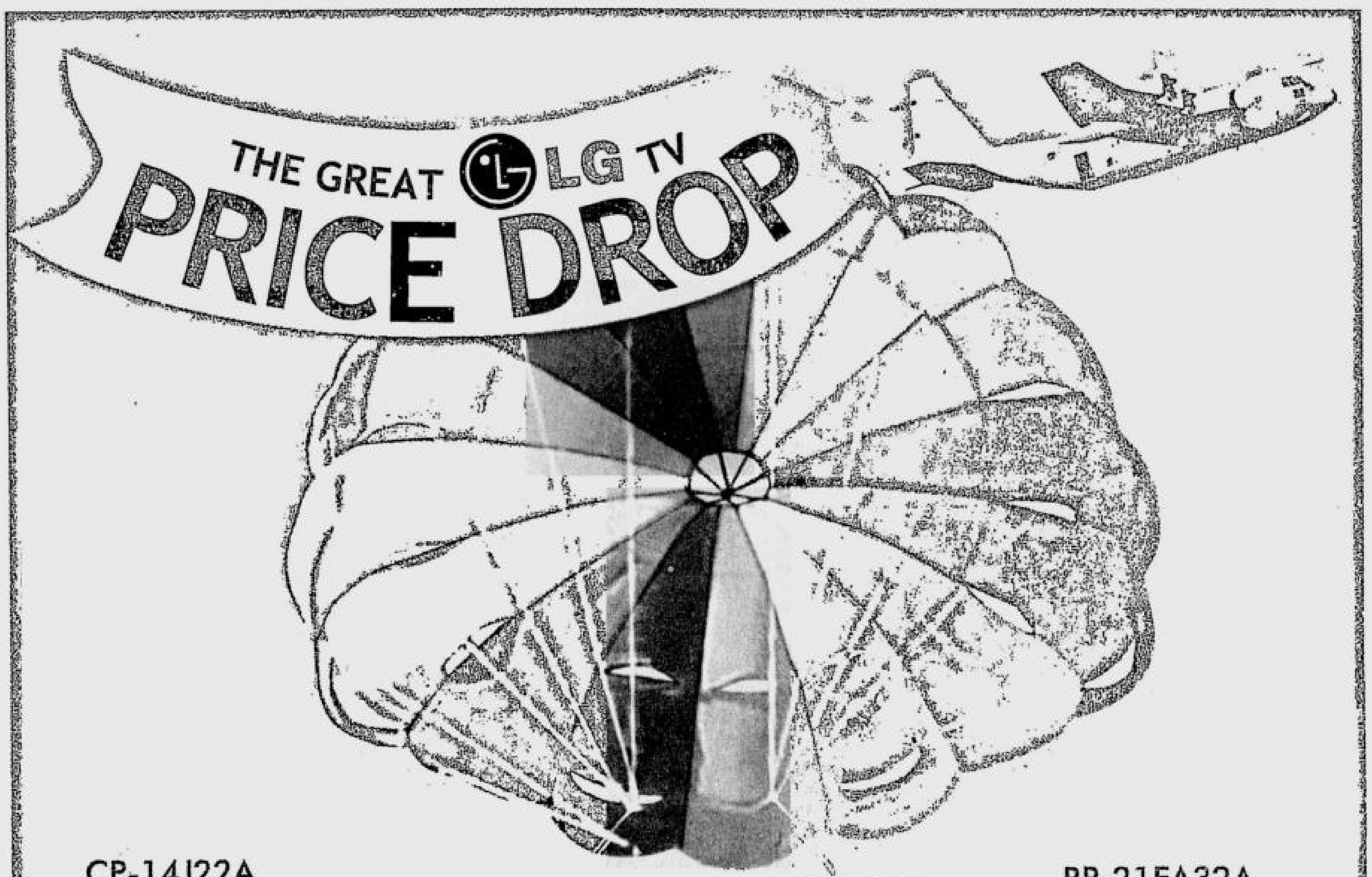
Washers &
Vacuum Cleaners

Whirlpool

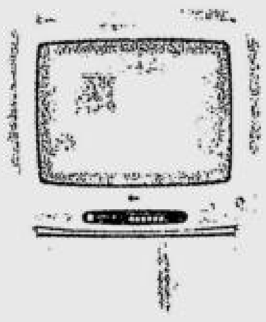
Ref, Washer, Air
Purifier &
Microwave
Oven models

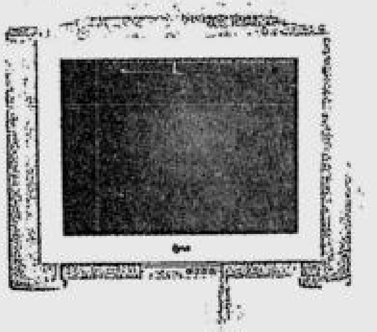
ELBA

Cooking Ranges
& Hoods



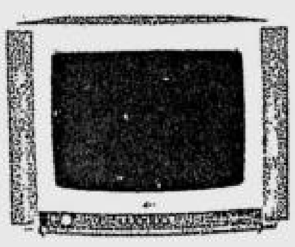
CP-14J22A
BEFORE:P6,195
NOW:
P5,595
*AV MULTI-SYSTEM & DVD INPUT

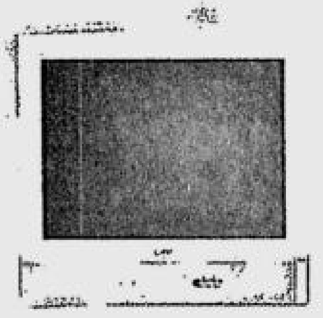




RP-21FA32A
BEFORE:P14,190
NOW:
P12,700
*AV MULTI-SYSTEM & DVD INPUT
* FREE TV RACK

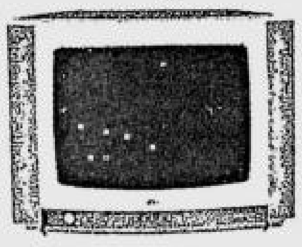
CP-14T30A
BEFORE:P6,795
NOW:
P5,995
*AV MULTI-SYSTEM & DVD INPUT

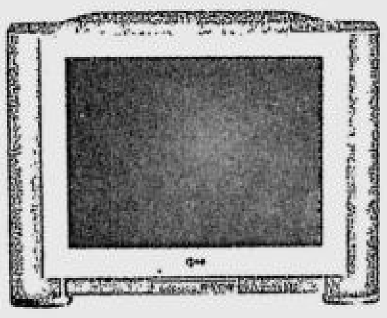




RP-21FB31
BEFORE:P13,195
NOW:
P11,700
*AV MULTI-SYSTEM & DVD INPUT
* FREE TV RACK

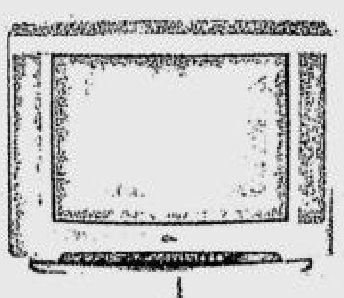
CP-14T31A
BEFORE:P7,395
NOW:
P6,495
*AV MULTI-SYSTEM & DVD INPUT

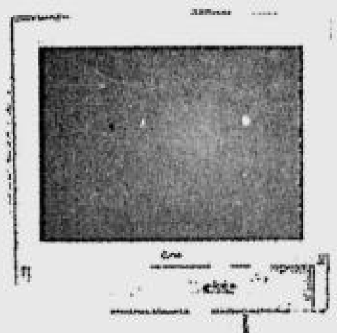




RP-29FA30
BEFORE:P39,995
NOW:
P35,995
*AV MULTI-SYSTEM & DVD INPUT
* FREE TV RACK

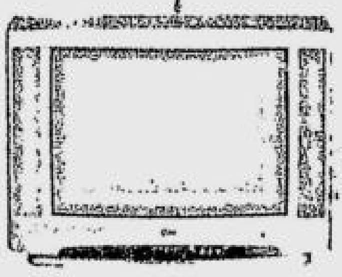
CP-21T20A
BEFORE:P9,195
NOW:
P7,995
*AV MULTI-SYSTEM & DVD INPUT

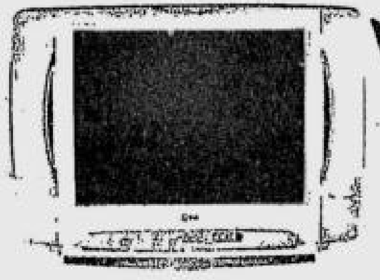




RP-29FB30
BEFORE:P35,995
NOW:
P32,490
*AV MULTI-SYSTEM & DVD INPUT
* FREE TV RACK

CP-21T21A
BEFORE:P10,195
NOW:
P8,995
*AV MULTI-SYSTEM & DVD INPUT





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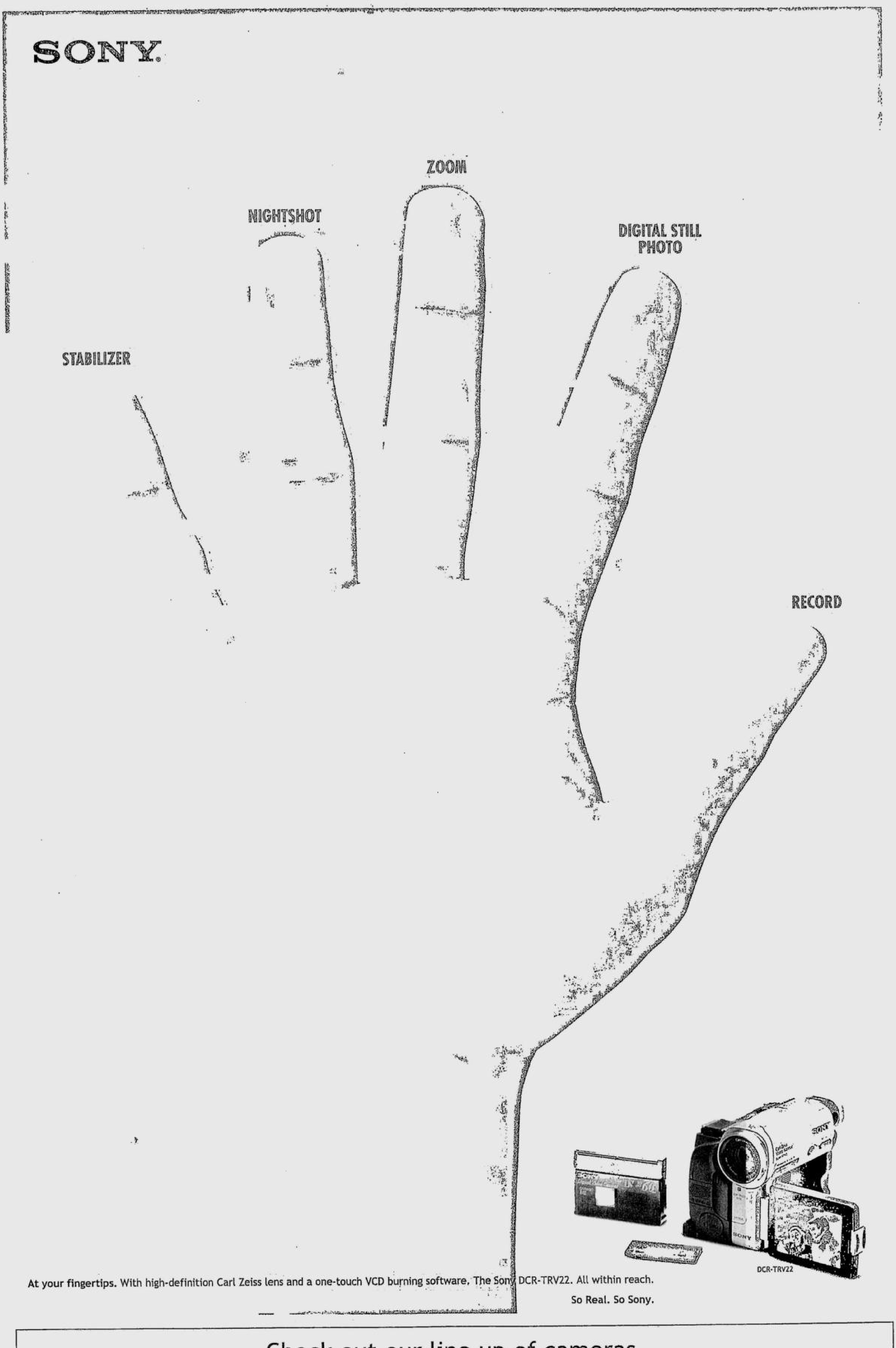

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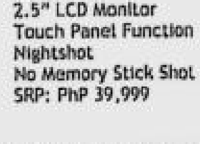

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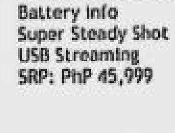

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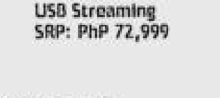

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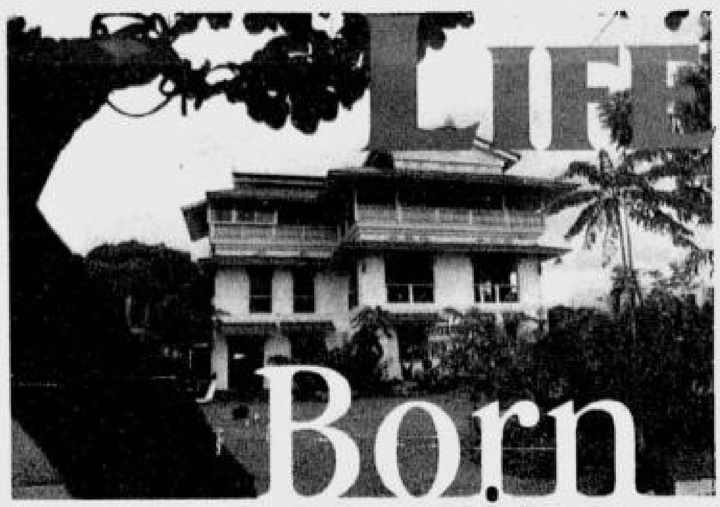


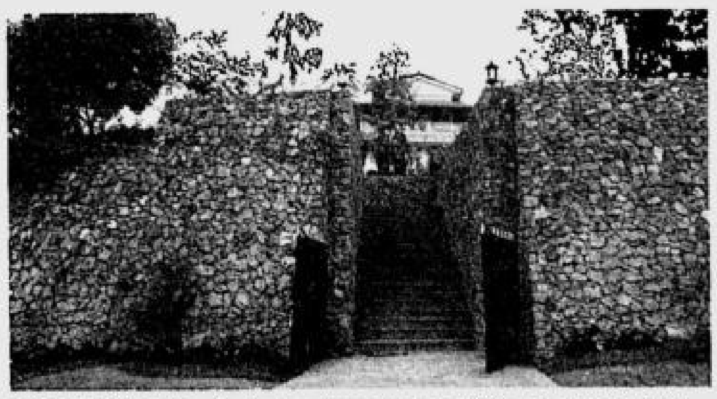
Born again to latter-day believers

Witness to lives and times well-lived, the Santos house is dismantled, reassembled and restored to its old glory

Text by Chelo Banal-Formoso
Photos by Jim Guiao-Punzalan

VICENTE Roman "Mike" Santos and his siblings always said they would take their ancestral home with them when they leave Navotas. And they did just that three years ago.

BORN/ K2



IRON GATE of the Antipolo reincarnation of the Santos house is from the original in Navotas.

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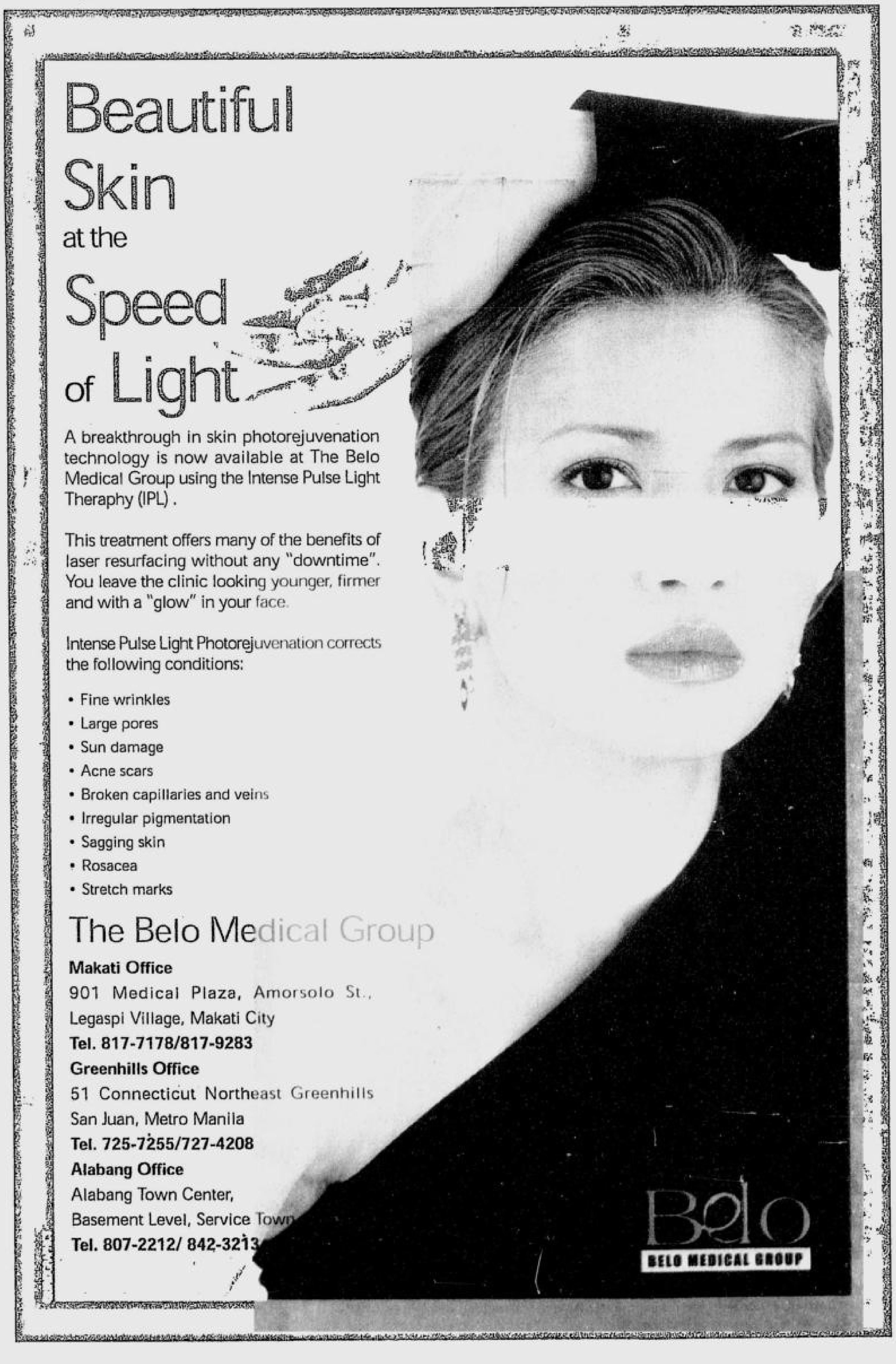

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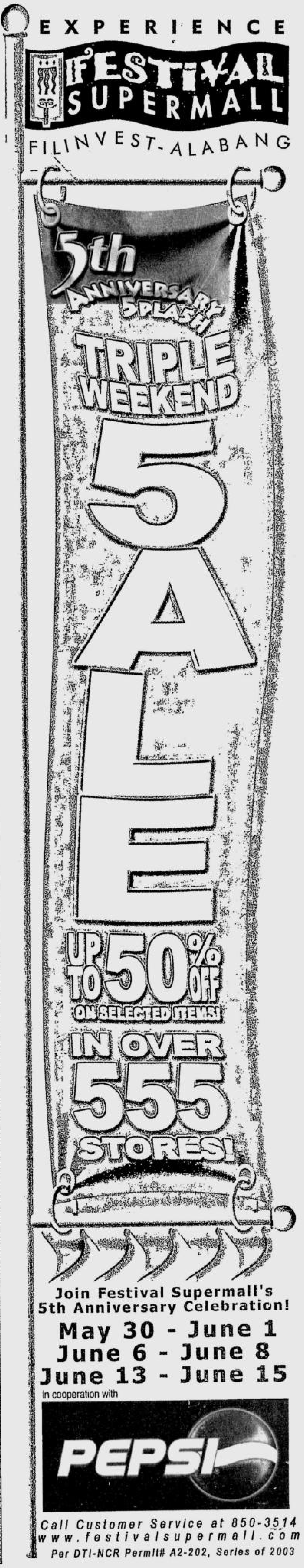

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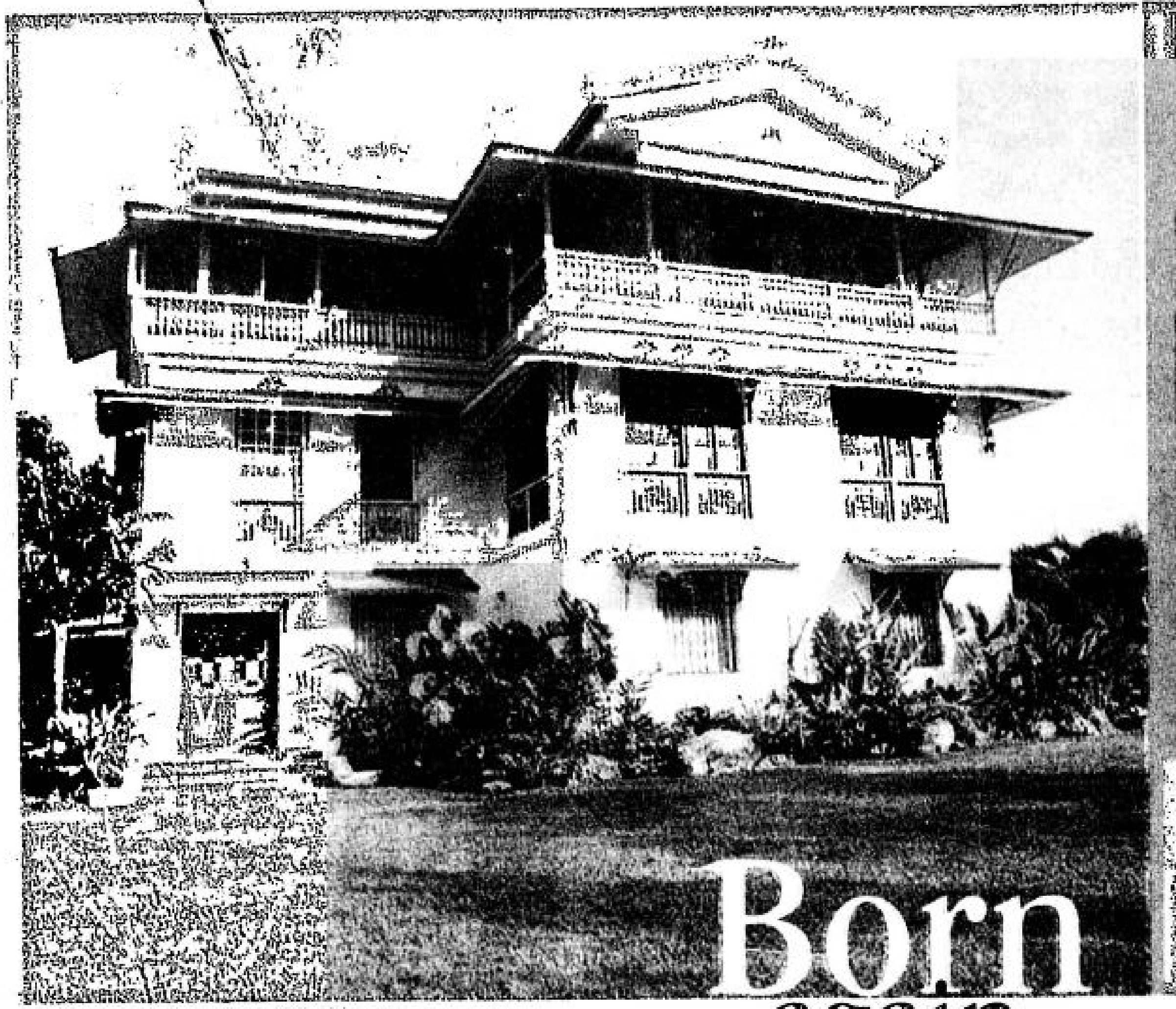
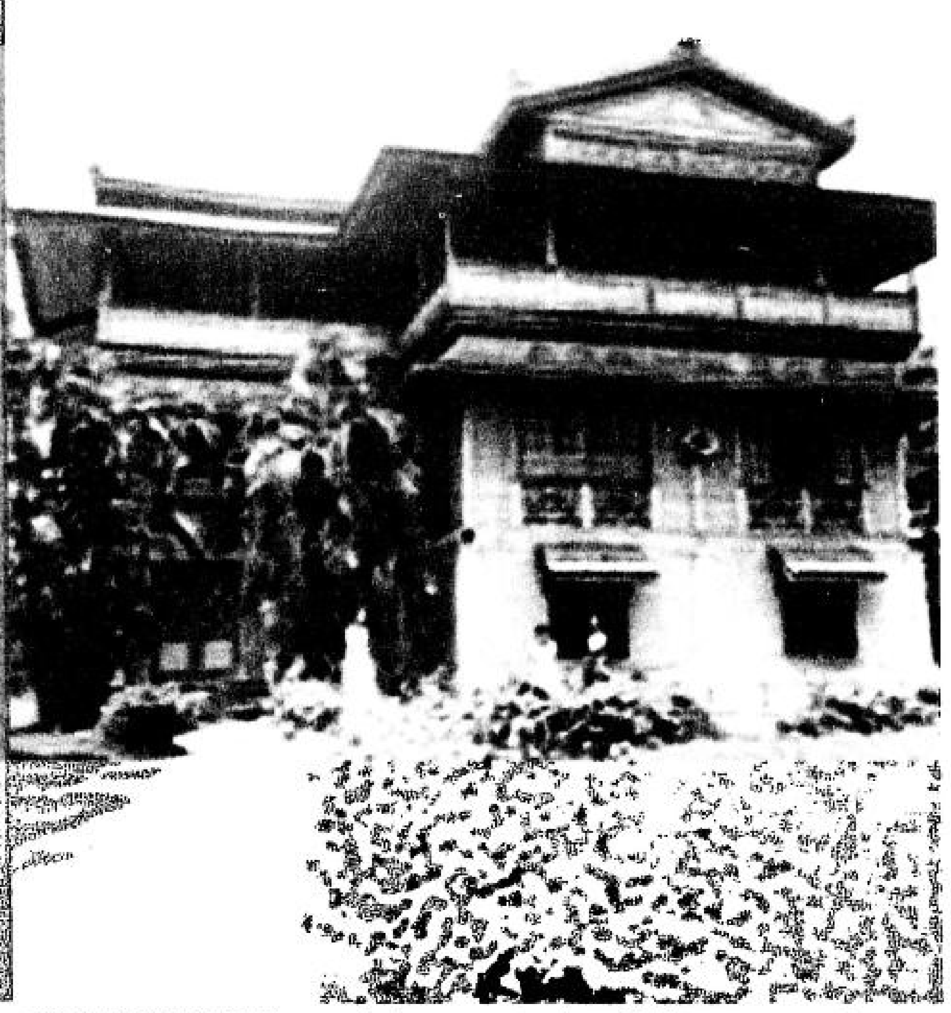
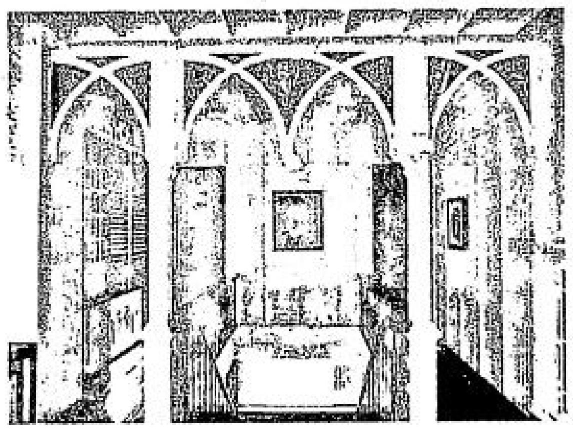
Born again to latter-day believers



THE SANTOS HOUSE TODAY, recreated as close to its image and likeness. Ceiling of ground floor, which used to be an *entresuelo* , had to be raised to make it more livable for Santos daughter Didi and her family.

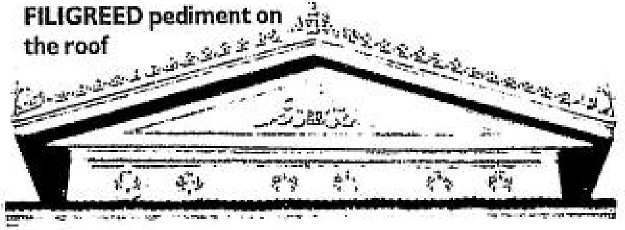


THE WAY IT WAS. In Navotas, the house was stood on a 2,500-sq m property but had a two-hectare backyard where carabaos and goats grazed.

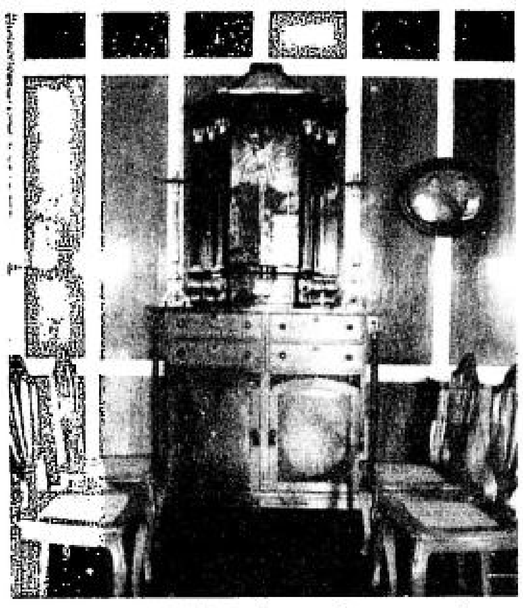


STAIRWELL shows off carved arches that still have original polychrome stain when stripped of paint, stonecut wooden wall. Left door leads to a *kuartito* that used to store *santos* but is now a spiral staircase going to the third floor. Right door leads to a powder room. Portrait of Roman Santos and wife Juliana at center is by Amorsolo.

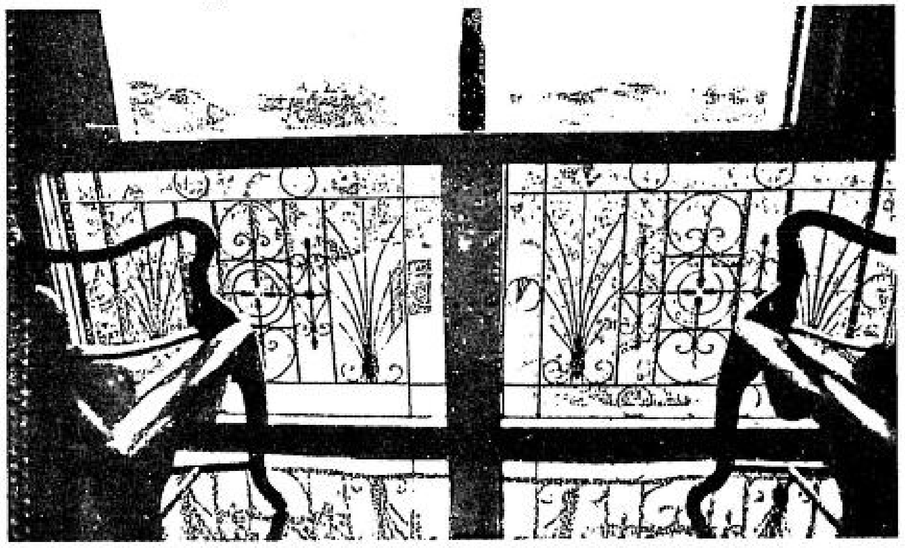
FILIGREED pediment on the roof



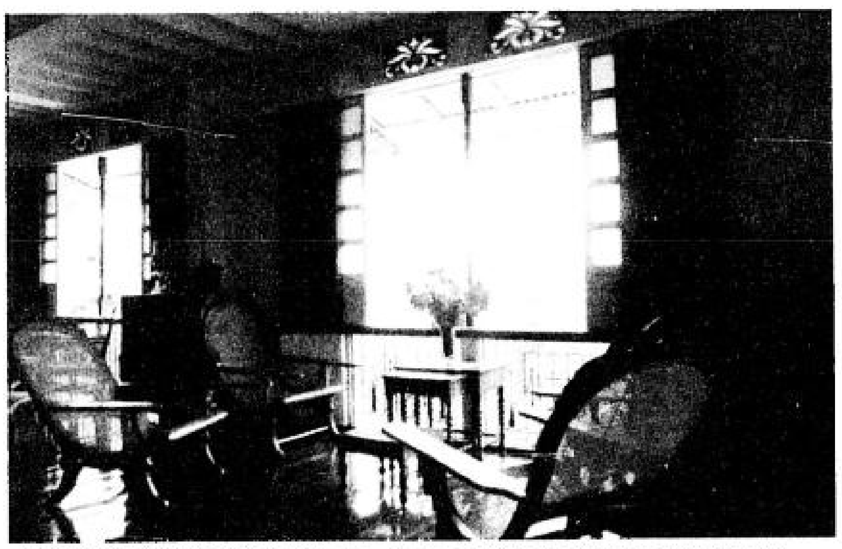
COLORED GLASS cutwork



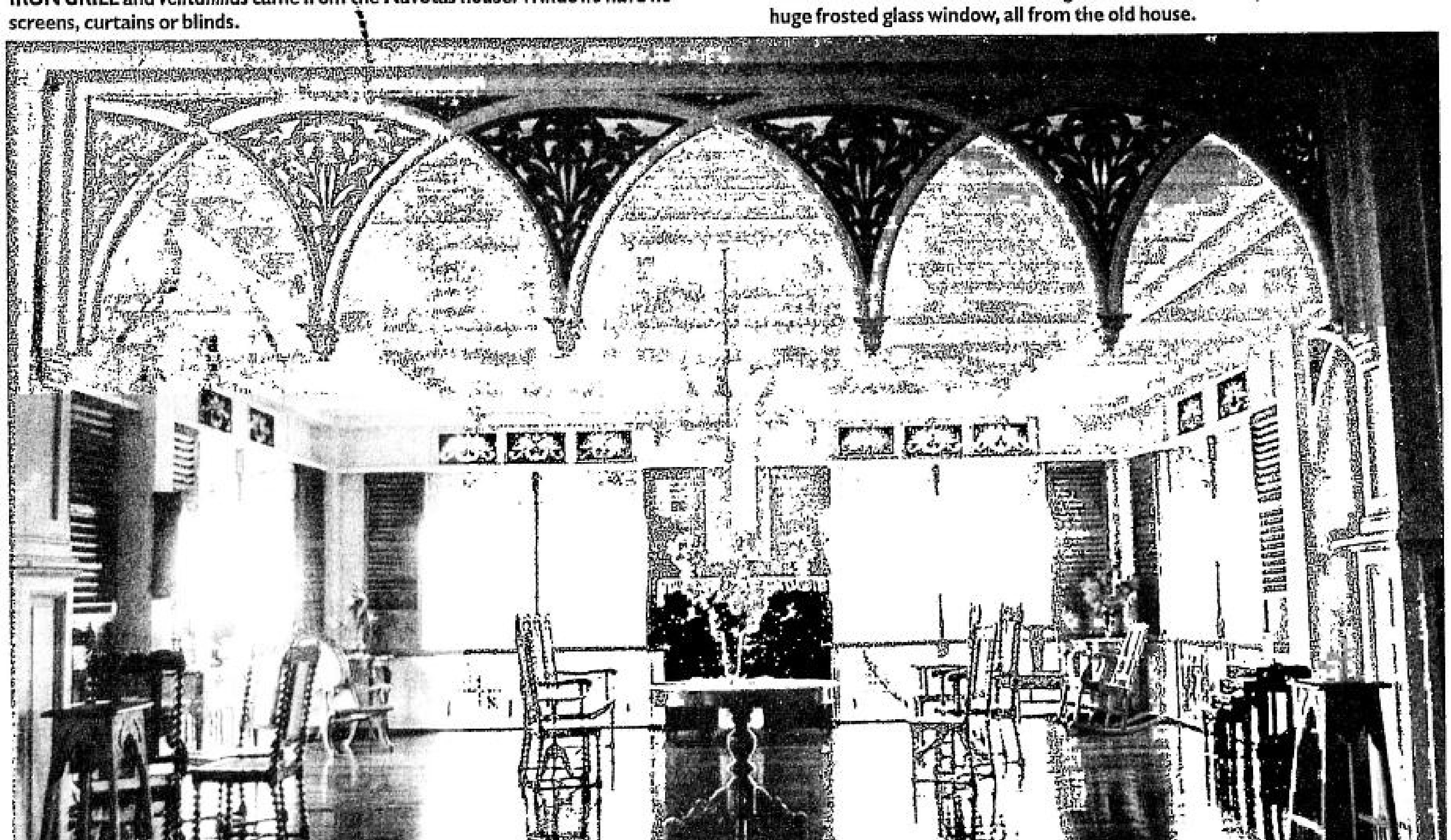
SACRED CORNER. Baliuag style narra and kamagong commode with inlay holds antique crucifix, Dolorosa and Magdalene tableaux; candelabras and chairs from Mike's collection. Narra wall paneling is from original house.



IRON GRILL and *ventanillas* came from the Navotas house. Windows have no screens, curtains or blinds.



BEST PLACE FOR A NAP. Stacking tables with bone inlay and butacas by huge frosted glass window, all from the old house.



SEVEN WINDOWS allow light and air into the spacious *sala* where furniture is carefully placed in a series of still-life compositions. Piano and stool, Art Deco lamps, Puyat chairs are from the old house. Also the decorative arches, painted during the renovations in the 50s and 70s, have been stripped of paint; they are supported by posts camouflaged as (left) china cabinet and (right) glassware cabinet with a false bottom for keeping guns during the war. Alternate dark (ipil) and light (yakal) pattern of flooring from original house could not be followed, however, because some of the original wood had warped.

From page K1

Piece by piece, the third-generation Santoses moved their *lolo*'s large house—with its colonial architecture, lacelike pediment, *capiz* windows and sentimental history—from its site in Navotas to its present location in Antipolo.

Elevated now on a 2,600 sq.m in the Fairmont development near Hinulugang Taktak, the house looks healthier and brighter, thanks to high ceilings, big windows and fretwork through which air circulates generously. On a clear day, one can see Mt. Arayat from the balcony, which encircles the third floor. Look the other way and you'll see the Laguna lakes.

As fate would have it, three of the Santos siblings—Mike, Nanie and Didi—had inherited the house. The scheme and scope of moving and rebuilding would have been too much for one person. Thanks to Mike's sweet, irresistible efforts at selling the idea, his siblings lent them some money to fund the project. "We all loved the house," says Mike.

Not wanting to end up looking like the Addams Family in a subdivision of uniform houses, Santos and siblings went looking for place to mount their heirloom house on. They got as far as Calamba, Laguna, but decided on a good-sized property in Antipolo. "We liked it instantly," recalls Mike.

From breezy to shabby

Santos' maternal grandfather, Roman Santos, suffered from tuberculosis so he had a house built in a town near the bay for the sea breeze. Hiring only a *maestro carpintero* to scrimp on cost, he spent P2,000 back in 1917.

The once bucolic Navotas, however, slowly but surely became a shabby town prone to flooding, victim of the ebbing of tide and time. And so over the years, up to here with the problems brought about by floodwaters, the children of Alicia, daughter of Roman, had mulled the idea of moving. Alicia was against it but after she died in 1998, her children put their dream in motion.

"The greatest challenge was to decide whether to demolish the old house and build a new structure using portions of it, or transport the whole house piece by piece and rebuild it," recalls architect Roberto "Bobby" Quisumbing, who came in as design consultant to oversee the project from drafting board to landscaping to completion.

The family decided to knock down, transport and assemble. "I would have done the same if it were my ancestral home," says Quisumbing.

With D.S. Rico Builders as contractors, the dismantling of the house started in September 2000, with such care (no wrecking ball here) that it took four months to do it. Every

BORN/ K6

PATRIARCH Roman Santos, who paid P2,000 to have the house built in 1917, in a portrait done in 1950 by Amorsolo no less. He died in 1959. In undertaking to move the house and writing about it, Mike discovered much about him. "Maybe that's why I got interested in the house," says Mike. "It was a way to get to know him."

Saving a heritage, adapting to the times

THE HOUSE and lot of Roman Santos and Juliana Andres was formerly known as Calle Real, 193. Later this changed to 353 Mariano Naval Street before it was renumbered 1063.

Three generations called it their home. The house and its belongings, ranging from scarred furniture and brittle documents to articles of jewelry and monogrammed finery and tableware, lent substance to each anecdote retold and allowed one to witness a family's past.

It was once a filigreed landmark. But over eight decades bore heavily upon it. The posts were now weary from age, water seepage and termites. The floor shook with each passage of a speeding truck. The roof and plumbing were in disrepair. And the old electrical installations were a fire hazard.

The environment too had taken its toll. The once pastoral town of fishermen and vegetable growers had become hostile with industrial activity and waste. Worsening floods assaulted the solar, even as the ground on which the first generation walked was buried under three layers of filling. The house lost its proud height. Its *silong* was reduced to a basement. Neighboring houses and schools were constructed on filled land, stunting the house that was once second in height only to the San Jose de Navotas Parish Church and obstructing the view from its balcony. The location's welcome had worn out.

Furthermore, the lifestyle of the budding fourth generation had shifted to modern ways. In the 21st century they no longer needed *cuartitos* but spacious bedrooms and bathrooms to satisfy today's appetite for convenience and privacy. They required more efficient kitchens to be maintained by fewer help and a functional ground floor rather than a *silong* and *entresuelo*.

There were three options. First, the house could be transplanted to a new location. Second, the house could be declared obsolete and kept as a memento or be put to other uses. Third, it could be demolished and its parts salvaged to serve as vignettes in a totally new house.

Transplanting the house met initial resistance from Alicia herself, whose home it had been from birth. "Reconstructing it would cost more than building a new house from scratch," Alicia protested, when presented with the idea. "Much of the materials would no longer be reusable," she continued. And as if to appeal to her children's emotions, exclaimed, "*Dito ako pinanganak. Hayaan ninyo nang mabulok ito dito.* (I was born here. Leave it be.)"

But her children argued that on the one hand, moving away and letting the house deteriorate were an abandonment of heritage. On the other hand, maintaining it as a warehouse or commercial space for lease, or even as a little museum, was prostitution of their home. They wanted to live in the same house they grew up in and hand down the tradition to their children.

Neither was salvaging the architectural details of the house for use as mere vignettes in a new house a real option. The richness of their past would forever be reduced to anecdotes devoid of context.

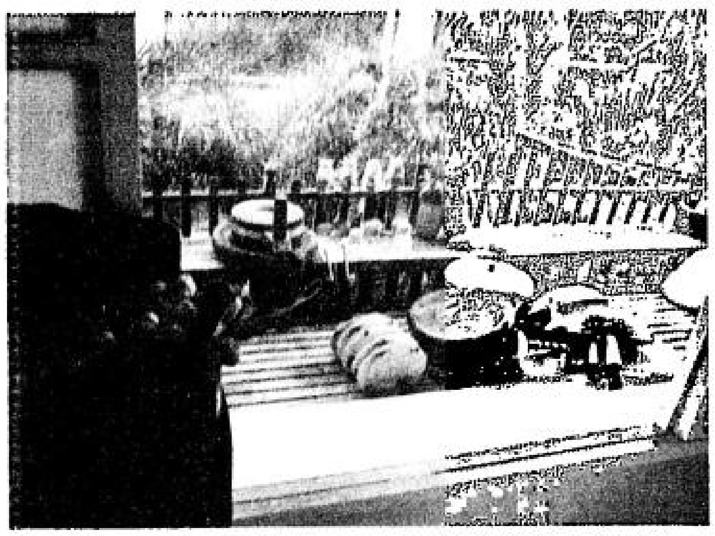
From "Tahanan: A House Reborn"

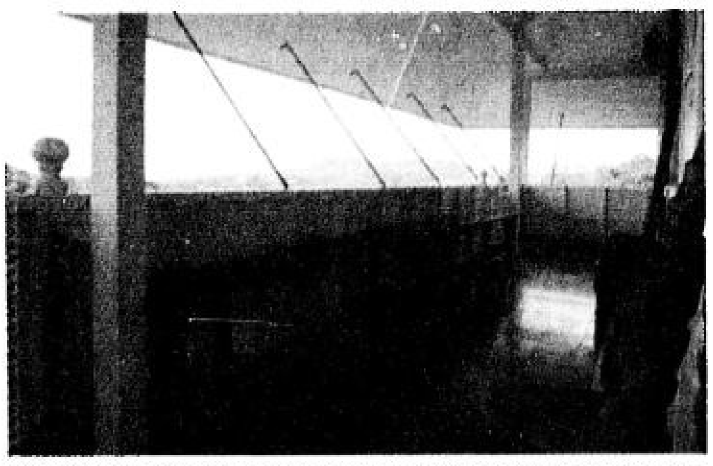
IN FLORAL dress, Alicia Santos, who inherited the house from her father Roman, is shown with husband, Mario and their children in a photo taken at the house in Navotas.

BOBBY QUISUMBING, design consultant for exterior, interior and landscaping

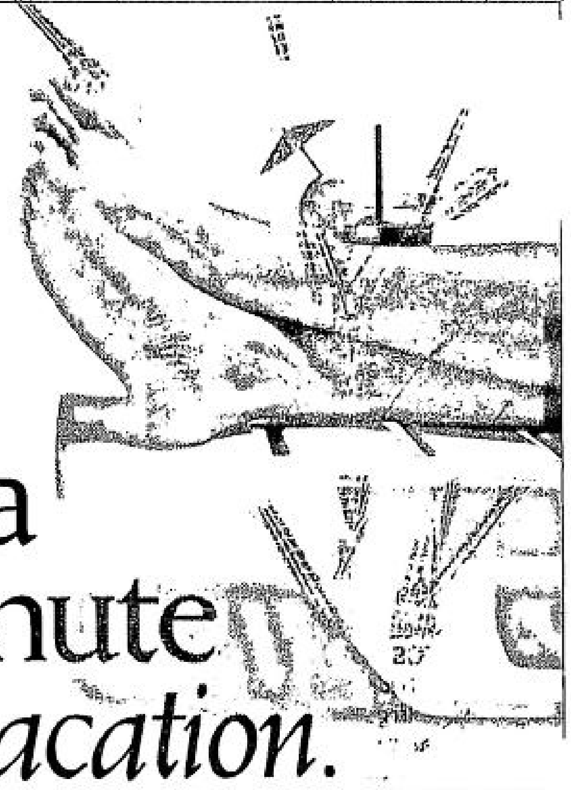
SPIRAL staircase to third floor

CO-AUTHORS. Mike Santos, who is one of three heirs to the house, and prolific book writer Ronnie Alejandro have teamed up to write and publish "Tahanan."


OLD world *banggerahan* that belonged to Mike's *lola* retrieved from the *bodega*, becomes stylish window to beautiful landscaping in Antipolo.


BALCONY on third floor gives a view of Mt. Arayat and forever on a clear day. Benches are from the original house, antique gravemarkers are from Mike's collection.

PLANTS like San Fransciso, Crisallica and Sampaguita were specified to be part of the landscape done by Vicente Panate because they were grown around the Navotas house.



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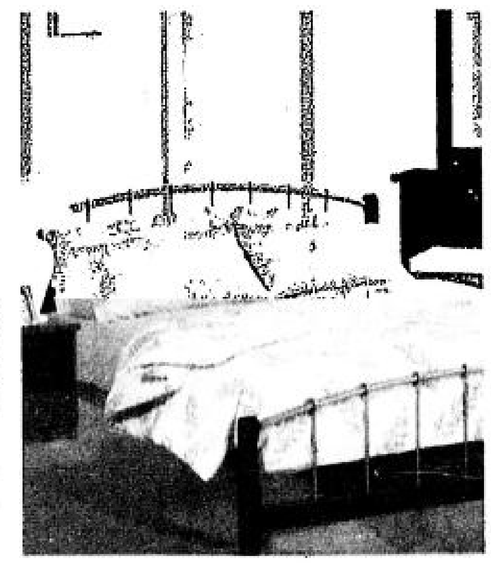
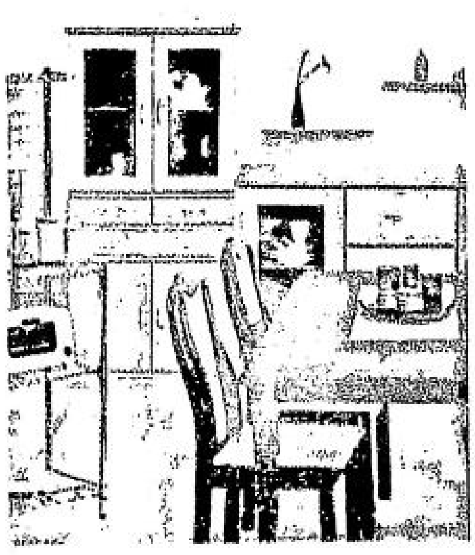

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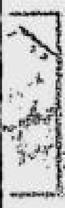
RUNCHY TOFU

Procedure:

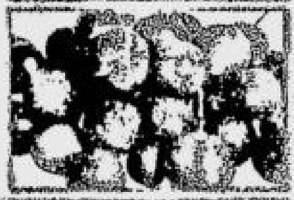
Slice tofu into 6. Pat dry with paper towels. Sprinkle with AJINOMOTO Ginisa Flavor Mix and set aside for 15 to 30 minutes. Dip in egg whites, then roll in bread crumbs. Deep fry coated tofu and drain on paper towels. Combine sugar, rice wine, vinegar, water, soy sauce & AJINOMOTO Super Seasoning. Simmer for a few minutes. Pour over tofu and sprinkle with chopped spring onions on top before serving.



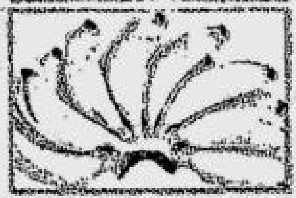
Tokwa
4's
TLC PRICE
P13 00 /pk.

Garlic Taiwan
TLC PRICE
P26 50 /kg.

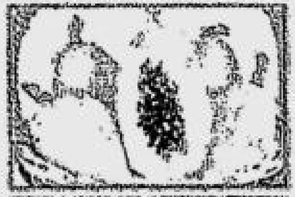
Sayote
TLC PRICE
P9 00 /kg.



Calamansi
TLC PRICE
P35 00 /kg.

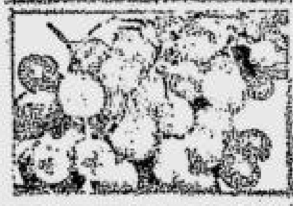


Banana Latundan
TLC PRICE
P22 00 /kg.



Solo Papaya
TLC PRICE
P18 00 /kg.

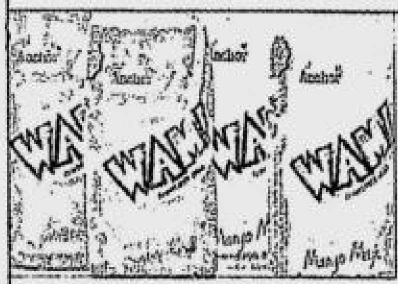
VALENCIA
Orange #88
6's
TLC PRICE
P75 00 /pk.



RED GLOBE
Grapes
TLC PRICE
P99 00 /kg.

HUMPY DUMPY
Corn Chips
- Butter Cheese
- Chili & Garlic
40 g
TLC PRICE
P3 75 ea.
Reg. Price 3.95

FA
Deo Roll-On
- On Selected Variants
50mL
TLC PRICE
P53 75 ea.
Reg. Price 59.75



ANCHOR
Wam Frootmilk Drink
- On Selected Flavors
110 mL / 5's
TLC PRICE
P33 50 /pk.
Reg. Price 37.50

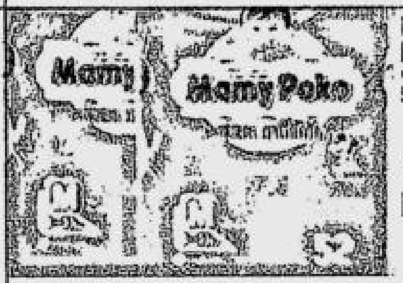
Softee
FREE Coasters
2 PLY

SOFTEE
Plus Bathroom Tissue
2 Ply, 250 Sheets
9's
TLC PRICE
P91 75 /pk.
Reg. Price 119.75

POKKA
Carrot Fruit Juice
240 mL
TLC PRICE
P23 50 ea.
Reg. Price 26.75

SO FRESH
Feminine Napkins
- Maxi Long With Wings
8's
TLC PRICE
P26 75 /pk.
Reg. Price 27.75

ZEST-O
Juice Drink
- Orange
200 mL / 10's
TLC PRICE
P39 75 /pk.



MAMY POKO
Baby Diapers
- Medium
52's
TLC PRICE
P530 00 /pk.
Reg. Price 594.50

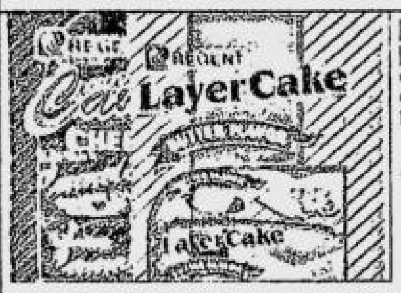
PILLSBURY
Hotcake Mix
200 g
TLC PRICE
P16 75 ea.
Reg. Price 17.75

ALASKA
Fresh/ Slim Milk
1 Liter
TLC PRICE
P39 50 ea.
Reg. Price 42.50

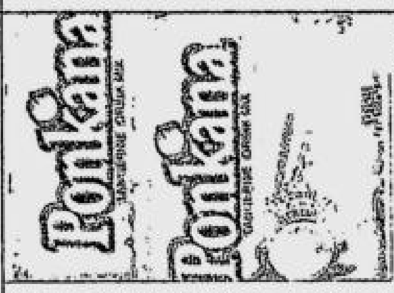
SNAPPLE
Juice Drink
- On Selected Flavors
355 mL
TLC PRICE
P22 25 ea.
Reg. Price 23.50

TENDERLY
Fabric Enhancer
- Powder Fresh
- Morning Dew
200 mL
TLC PRICE
P23 75 ea.
Reg. Price 25.75

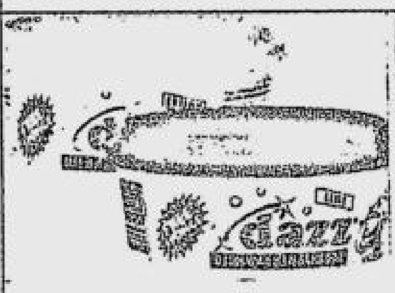
GERBER
Cereals
- On Selected Flavors
125 g
TLC PRICE
P41 50 ea.
Reg. Price 44.50



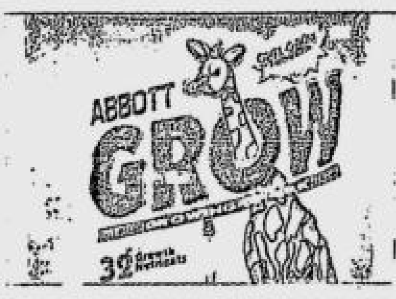
REGENT
Layer Cake
- Butter
- Cheese
176 g / 8's
TLC PRICE
P36 00 /pk.
Reg. Price 38.00



PONKANA
Powdered Juice Drink
500 g
TLC PRICE
P33 25 /pk.
Reg. Price 35.00

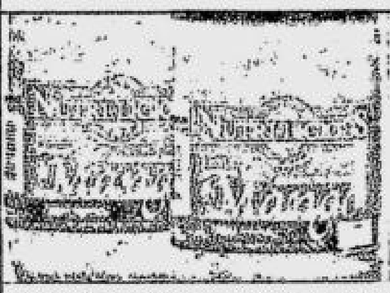


DAZZ
Dishwashing Paste
- Lemon
- Lime
200 g.
TLC PRICE
P15 75 ea.
Reg. Price 16.75

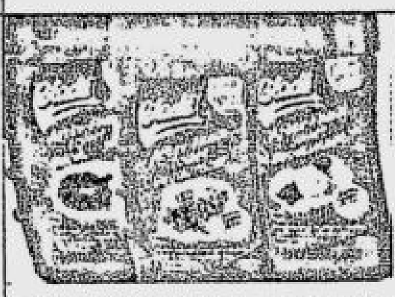


GROW
Growing Up Milk
- Choco
1 kg
TLC PRICE
P409 50 ea.
Reg. Price 419.75

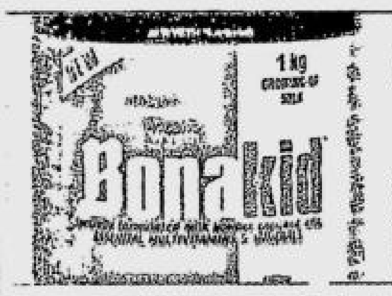
LEMON SQUARE
Dream Cake
- On Selected Variants
35 g / 10's
TLC PRICE
P42 00 /pk.
Reg. Price 46.00



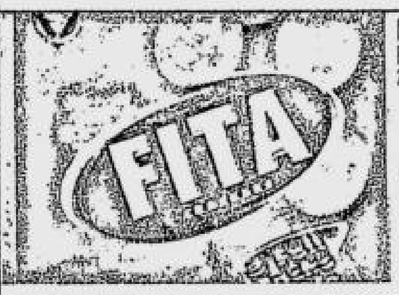
NUTRI-LICIOUS
Juice Drink
- Mango
1 liter
TLC PRICE
P58 50 ea.
Reg. Price 64.50



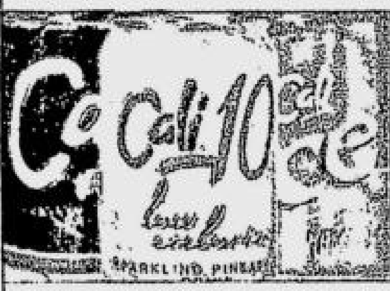
GLADE
After-Flush Deodorizer
- Cool Meadow
- Floral Garden
- Sunshine Lemon
70 g
TLC PRICE
P34 00 ea.
Reg. Price 36.75



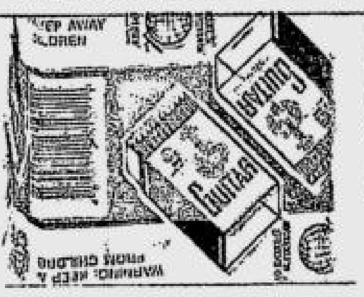
BONAKID
Growing Up Milk
1 kg
TLC PRICE
P269 50 ea.



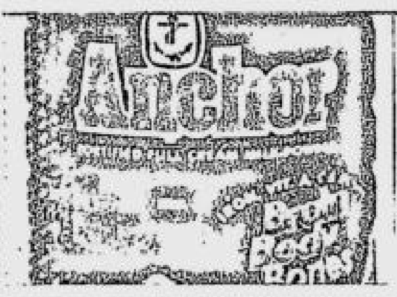
M.Y. SAN
Fita Crackers
240 g
TLC PRICE
P21 75 /pk.
Reg. Price 23.50



CALI
Shandy In Can
- Ice
- 10 Diet
- Regular
330 mL
TLC PRICE
P13 00 ea.



GUITAR
Standard Match
- Black Head
10s
TLC PRICE
P11 50 /pk.
Reg. Price 12.75

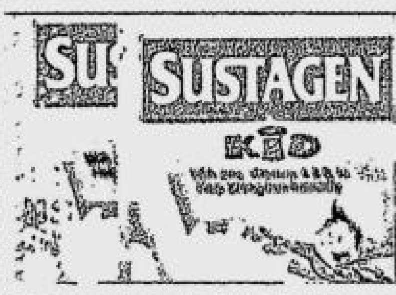


ANCHOR
Full Cream Milk Powder
1.8 kg
TLC PRICE
P389 50 ea.

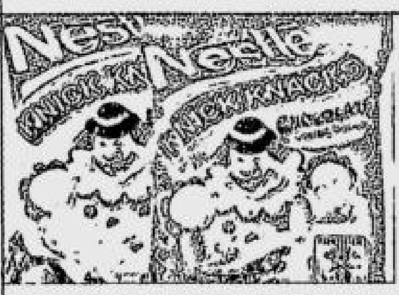
DANONE
Tiger Choco Wafer
88 g
TLC PRICE
P13 50 ea.
Reg. Price 14.50

BETADINE
Oral Antiseptic
60 mL
TLC PRICE
P63 75 ea.
Reg. Price 66.75

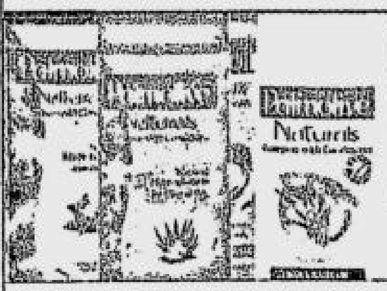
NEW SILVER
Liquid Shoe Polish
- Neutral
- Brown
- Black
75 mL
TLC PRICE
P70 00 ea.
Reg. Price 76.75



SUSTAGEN KID
Growing Up Milk
- Vanilla
350 g
TLC PRICE
P138 75 ea.
Reg. Price 140.50



KNICK KNACKS
Coated Biscuits
- Milk
- Choco
70 g.
TLC PRICE
P12 50 ea.
Reg. Price 13.50



PALMOLIVE
Naturals Shampoo
- All Variants
100 mL
TLC PRICE
P36 75 ea.
Reg. Price 38.75

PEDIGREE
Dog Food
- On Selected Variants
400 g
TLC PRICE
P34 75 ea.
Reg. Price 39.75

ATHENA
Milk Powder For Women
500 g
TLC PRICE
P169 50 ea.
Reg. Price 179.50

OISHI
Ridges Potato Chips
- Onion & Garlic
70 g
TLC PRICE
P16 50 ea.
Reg. Price 17.50

BABES
Hair Glow
- For Men
135 mL
TLC PRICE
P42 75 ea.
Reg. Price 46.75

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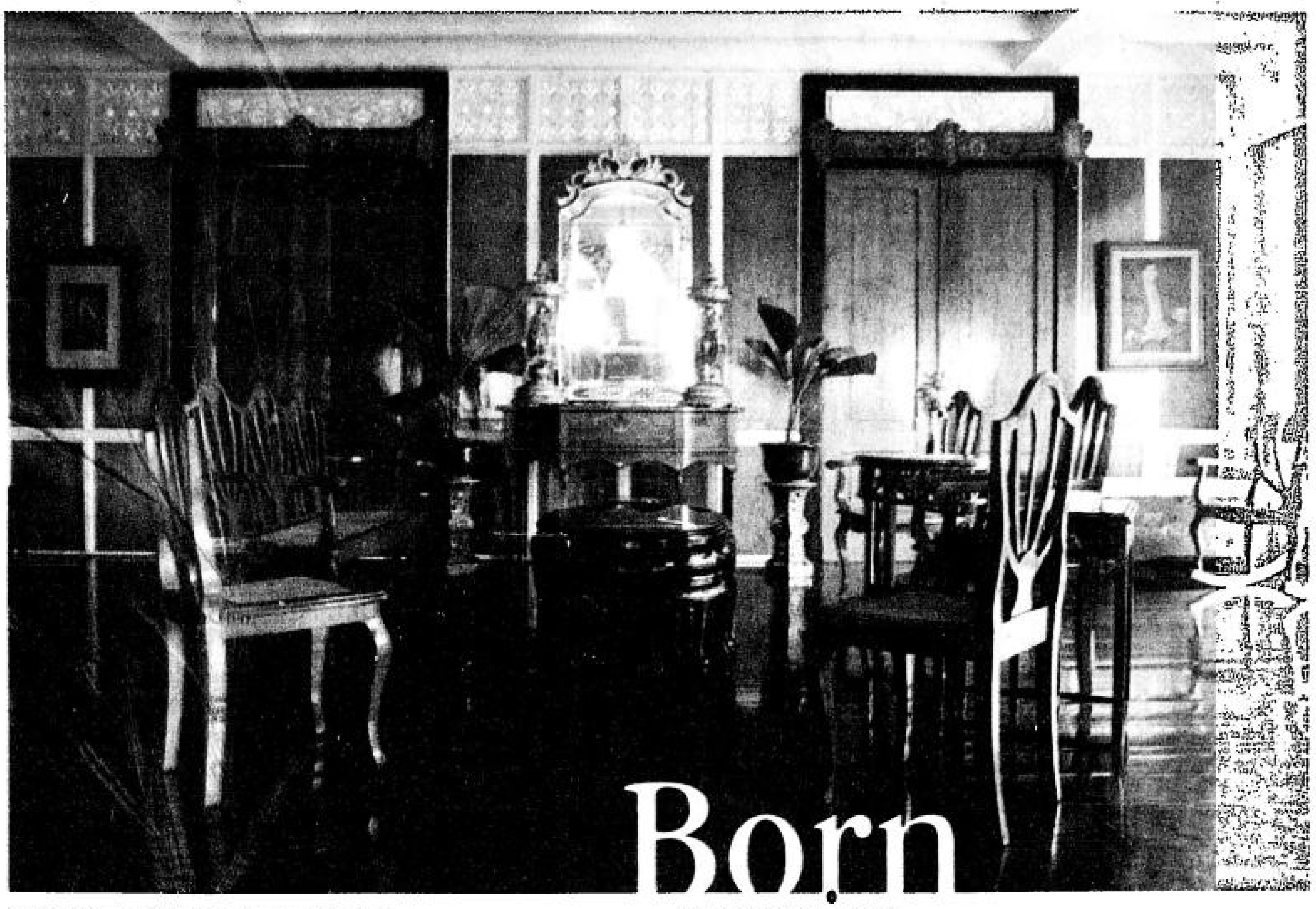


COZY GROUPING. Czech mrror, broken during the move, had to be restored by Via Antica; valances, cutwork, wall paneling, doors are all from the original house. Heppelwhite chairs are Mike's; Chinese table and *santos* are his mom's. Photo on right shows Roman's father Olegario, and left photo is of Mike's mother Alicia, both discovered during packing and moving.

ENTRY way with granolithic flooring just like in Navotas

Born again to latter-day believers

From page K2

piece of material from the house was marked and photographed. Some 20 trucks then transported the materials to the Antipolo site.

As foreseen by his mother, "We couldn't reuse many pieces," says Mike. Substitutions were made; floor joists from the old house, for example, were turned into Tabla Rizal, the wooden sidings for exterior walls. Santos estimates that only 60 percent of all the wood from Navotas was reused in Antipolo. On the whole, however, new wood material made up only 30 percent of the Antipolo house.

Waiting on the wings to do the interiors was Armando V. Araneta, who approached the project with respect and restraint, creating thus, with the help of Quisumbing and the Santoses, an austerely graceful setting instead of a chaotic collection of things past.

Before the house was disassembled, Santos met writer Reynaldo "Ronnie" Alejandro, who convinced him to document the process and come out with a book on the recreation of the house.

Instead of doing it alone, Santos decided to team up with Alejandro and the result is a handsome coffeetable book entitled "Tahanan: A House Reborn," which will come off the press late this year. (*See excerpt on p. K3*) The book is crammed full of the history of a town and a family, as well as anecdotes on the Santos patriarch and the clan's culinary secrets. Pre-publication orders to avail of the discounted price of P1,800 have been coming in.

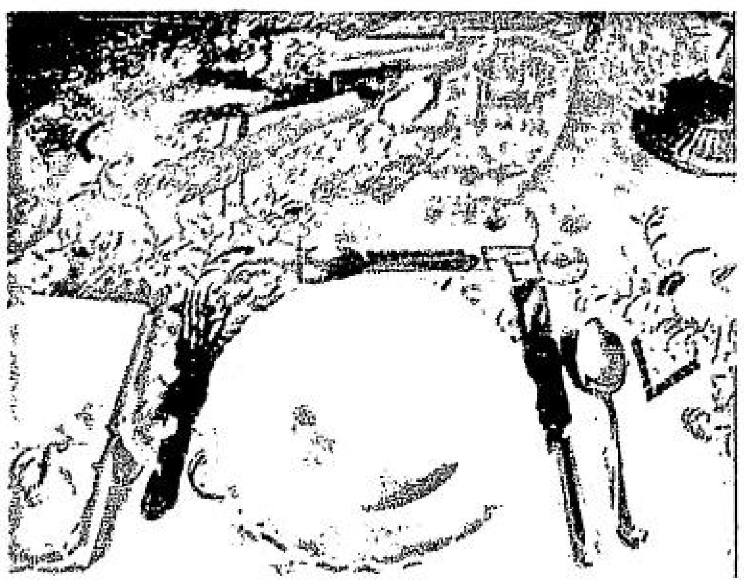
The first family who lived in the house have all died. During the reconstruction, Alicia's brother Federico and sister Lourdes died without seeing the house remounted.

"I had to rely on the eldest of us cousins who is just five years younger than my mother. Among the cousins, not including us, he was the most attached to the house," says Mike, referring to Jose Santos, president of Prudential Bank, who made frequent visits to the house in his youth. Mike sought him out, before and during the reconstruction for help with details.

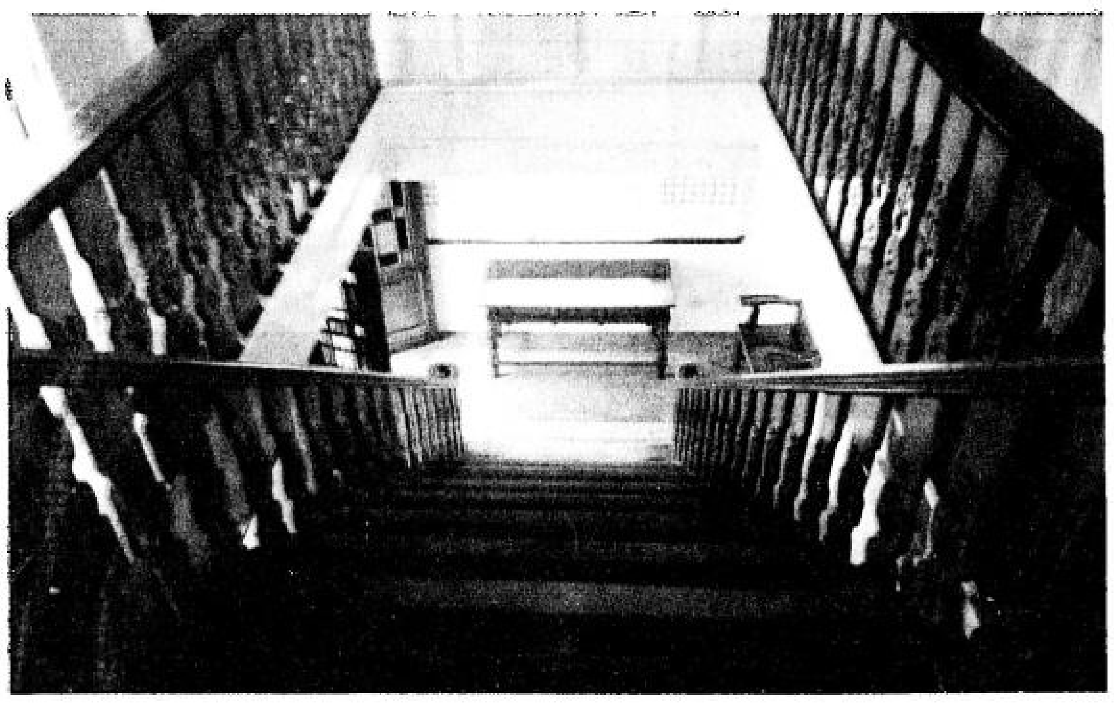
When the house was finally completed and standing proud and glorious on its hill in Antipolo, cousin Jose came visiting with their other relatives. When he said, "*Napakaganda ng ginawa ninyo*," Mike felt secretly triumphant. "That was the most important opinion to me," says Mike.

Upon completion of the reconstruction, Mike and his sisters moved in. "It was," says Mike, "like coming home again."

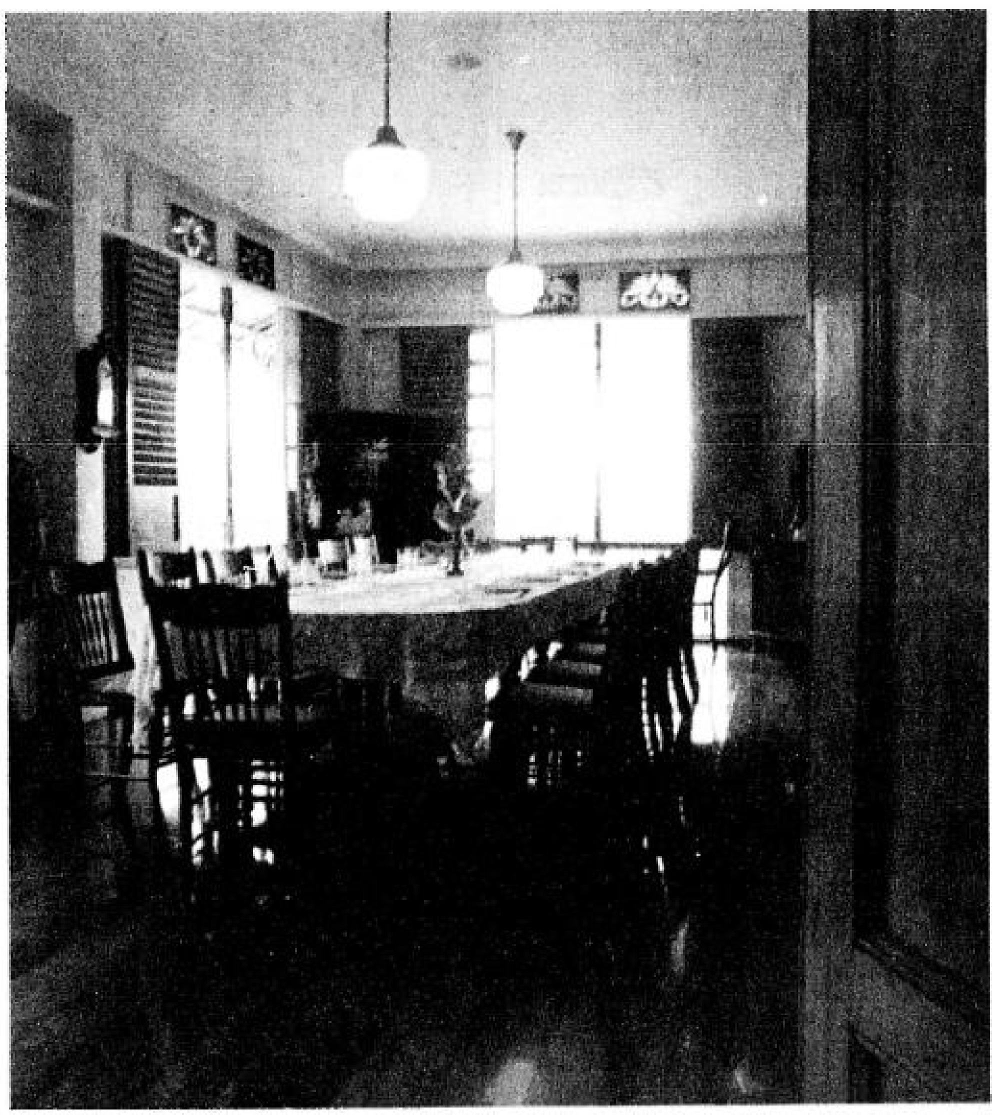
"Tahanan: A House Reborn"—For pre-publication orders , call 281-2852 or e-mail vrsantos@qinet.net



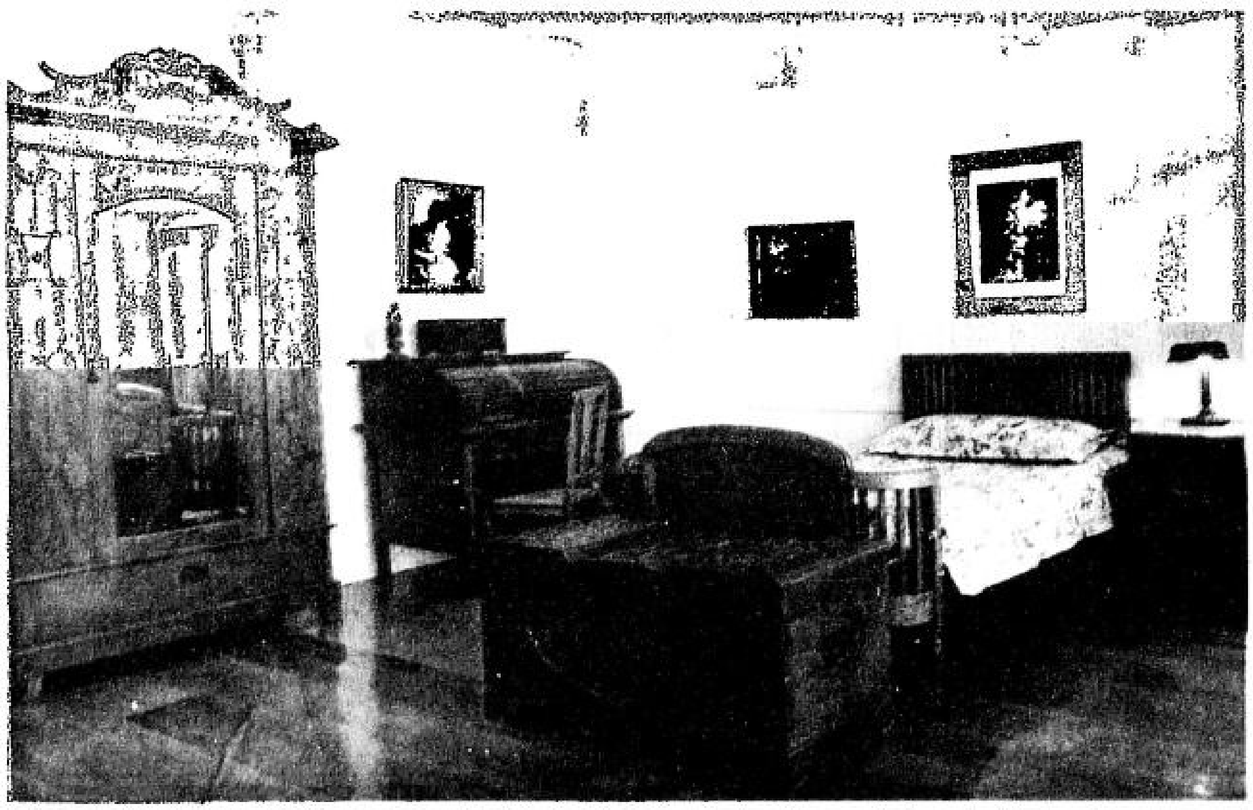
HEIRLOOM place setting, taken for the book "Tahanan" scheduled for release before the year is over, goes with family recipes.



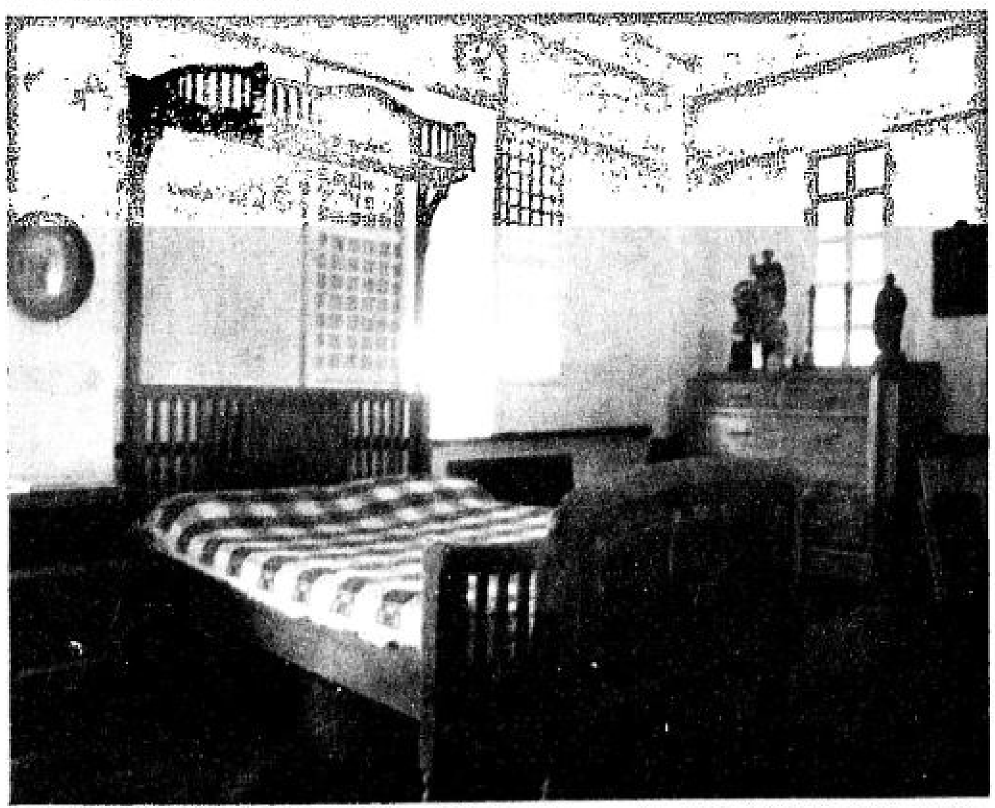
ORIGINAL stairs, except that steps had to be added and the banister made longer because the ground floor ceiling was raised.



DINING ROOM area of the reconfigured Antipolo house used to be the clean kitchen in Navotas. Magic extendable table is Mike's; some of the chairs are from the original house and others, reproduced. Fretwork are reproductions although windows are original. Chinese screen belonged to Mike's mother from the 70s. Art Deco lights were purchased to replace old ones that got broken during the move.



NANIE'S bedroom, furnished with antique bed, desk, side table, trunk and *aparador* from the Navotas house originally owned by their *lola*. Stonecut wall is original.



MIKE'S bedroom on the third floor has a 1920s bed the exact replica of sister Nanie's except he found this one at an antique shop complete with canopy for putting up mosquito netting. His study next door houses a modern day computer.

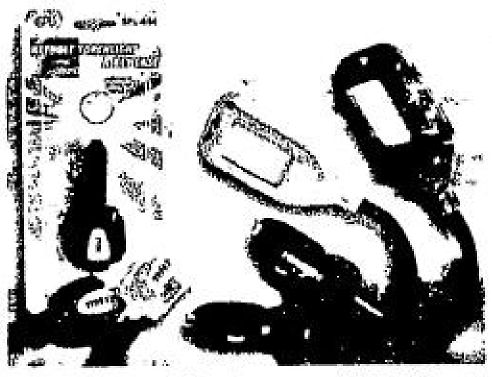
More meaningful gifts for Dad

MAKE Dad feel extra special on Father's Day. Get him a gift that is more meaningful.

Robinsons Handyman and Handyman's Do it Best offers some suggestions.

For the father who loves sports, lower box tickets to the games will be appropriate. You can even arrange a post-game chitchat or picture-taking with his favorite player.

COMBO pack: Type S seat belt pad and Type S steering wheel cover (P330)



KEYHOLE torchlight/key case (P119.75) and tech light (P219.75-P1,139.75)

Plan a special Father's Day celebration at home for the homebody Dad. Start with a hearty breakfast, then serve his favorite snacks and a delicious home-cooked dinner. Throughout the day, let him have the remote control so he can watch his favorites.

Help Dad keep the family car running smoothly. Your gift of time would surely mean a lot to him. Pick some automotive tools and accessories from Robinsons Handyman and Handyman's Do It Best home improvement centers to give your car a new look.

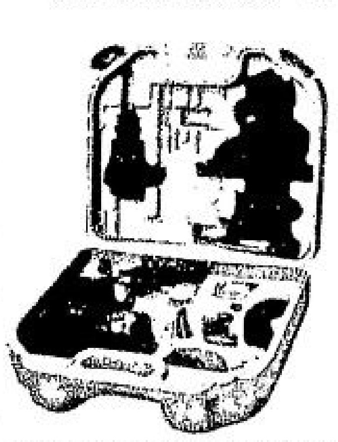
Take advantage of the Car Care Sale until June 26 that offers up to 25-percent discount.

Meanwhile, a series of demonstrations on home improvement will be conducted at Handyman's Do it Best in Robinsons Metro East until July 10. You can learn how to stop leaks and drips especially this rainy season. This is sponsored and presented by Flexto Seal Sealant.

At Handyman Robinsons Galleria, June 20-22, Ramgo will show how to plant from seeds. Falre International will sponsor and present the computer-based CCTV surveillance system, the newest security technology, at Handyman Robinsons Place Manila, June 27-29. Admission is free.

Robinsons Handyman and Handyman Do It Best have 35 stores in all Robinson's Malls, Waltermart superstores and other locations nationwide. Soon to open are branches in Robinsons Place in Lipa, Batangas; Dasmariñas, Cavite, and Angeles, Pampanga; and in Waltermart in Plaridel, Bulacan.

Dads show off their skills in Father's Day contest



THE BLACK and Decker Multi-Tool Kit

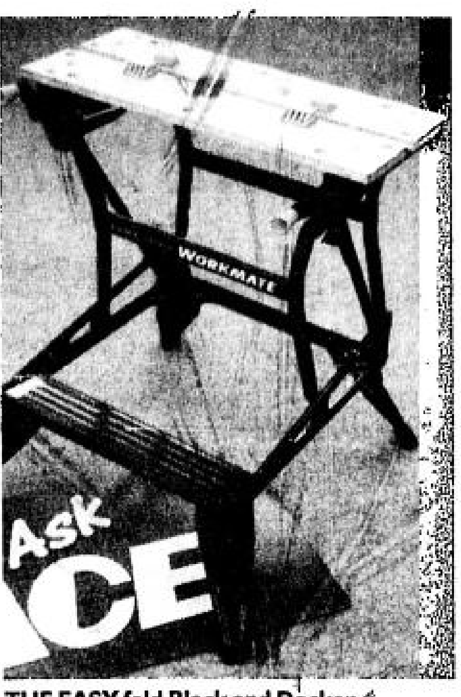
ERGONOMIC String Trimmers

ACE Hardware celebrates Father's Day through Power Tools for Dad Challenge with Black and Decker at the Ace Hardware, Megamall outlet.

Finalists in the challenge will be competing on Father's Day for P25,000 (first), P15,000 (second) and P10,000 (third) worth of Black and Decker tools. Black and Decker's power tools and accessories line includes drills, electric lawn and garden tools, and electric cleaning and lighting products.

In the Power Tools for Dad Challenge, every P1,000 minimum purchase of Black and Decker products at Ace Hardware, SM Megamall, allowed dads to take up the challenge to drill five screws into a piece of wood under 25 seconds in the preliminary round June 1 and 8.

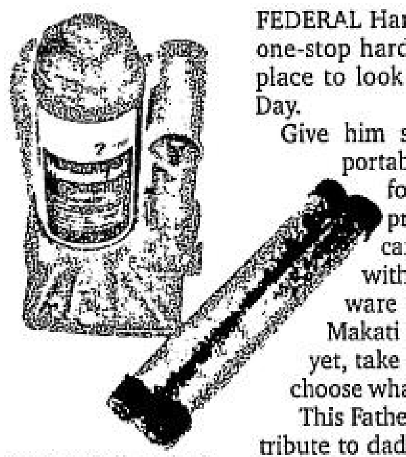
Ace Hardware is also conducting a raffle promotion with exciting prizes. Every P300 purchase from any Ace Hardware outlet until June 30 entitles the customer to a raffle coupon and a chance to win one of 42 Nokia 3315 phones and 14 Black and Decker Workmates.



THE EASY fold Black and Decker Workmate

A DUAL purpose waxer and polisher from B&D

Right place to get Dad's gift



PORTABLE car jack

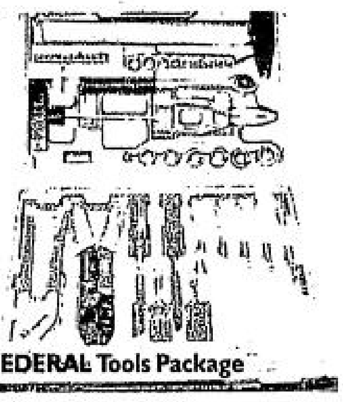
FEDERAL Hardware, the country's premier one-stop hardware store, may be the right place to look for gifts for Dad on Father's Day.

Give him something he'll really use—a portable car jack for his car, a tool set for his many home improvement projects or power tools for the carpentry work he's been busy with for months. Visit Federal Hardware flagship store at Pasong Tamo, Makati to help you choose a gift. Better yet, take your dad with you and let him choose what he wants.

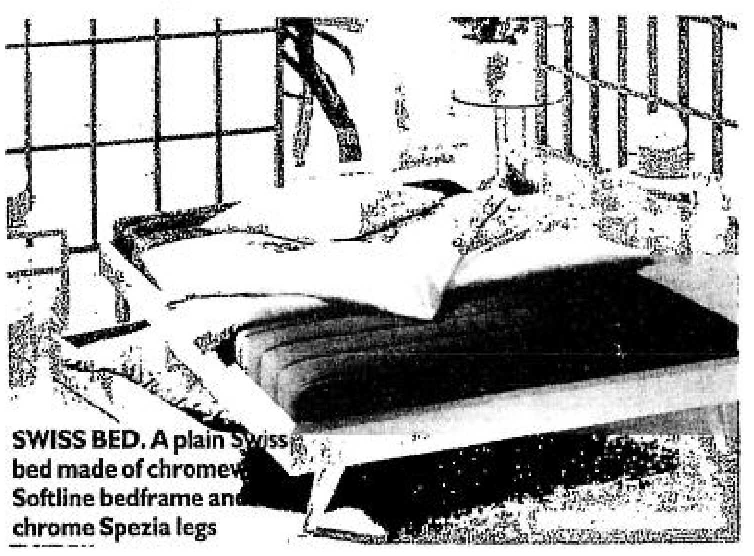
This Father's Day, Federal Hardware pays tribute to dads with a free toolbox valued at P600+ with every purchase of the Federal Tools Package. Power tools at discounted prices also come with free items.

FREE tool[illegible] worth P600 for ever[illegible] Federal Tools Package purchase

Federal carries the widest assortment of local and imported tile products in the country, such as Eurotiles and Stylnul. It also offers a large variety of do-it-yourself products, wood, hardware, hand and power tools, paints, lawn and garden accessories, electrical items, kitchenware, easy concrete, lights and car care products. Friendly service assistants are on hand to offer advise when needed.



FEDERAL Tools Package



SWISS BED. A plain Swiss bed made of chromew Softline bedframe an chrome Spezia legs

More lasting gift for Dad

PLAY & display offers big discounts, from 5-50 percent, for all furniture items so you can give Dad a more special treat.

Tell him of your love with a reclining chair or a sofa where he can relax after a long day at work. An attractive carpet can brighten up his room or office. Or you can get him a replacement for his old bed or a cabinet for his audio and video systems.

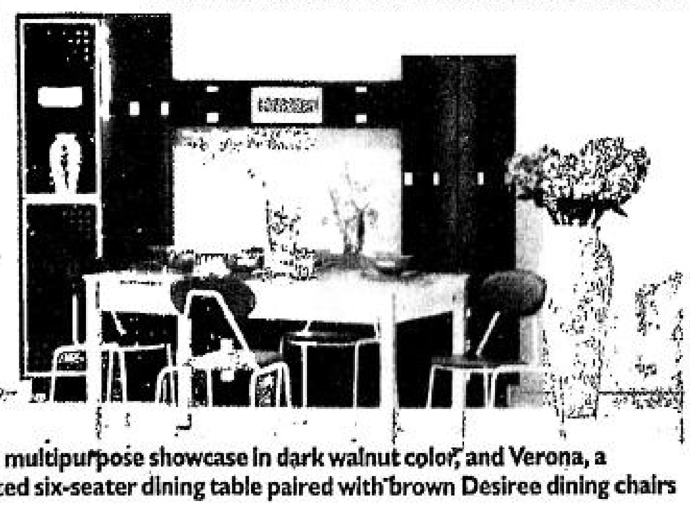
The gifts will last and will be treasured longer.

At play & display, sofas and wardrobes are available at up to 30-percent off. Big discounts are also given on designs introduced only this year. Up to 50-percent discounts are given on beds while prices of entertainment cabinets, tables and chairs are down by 10-15 percent.

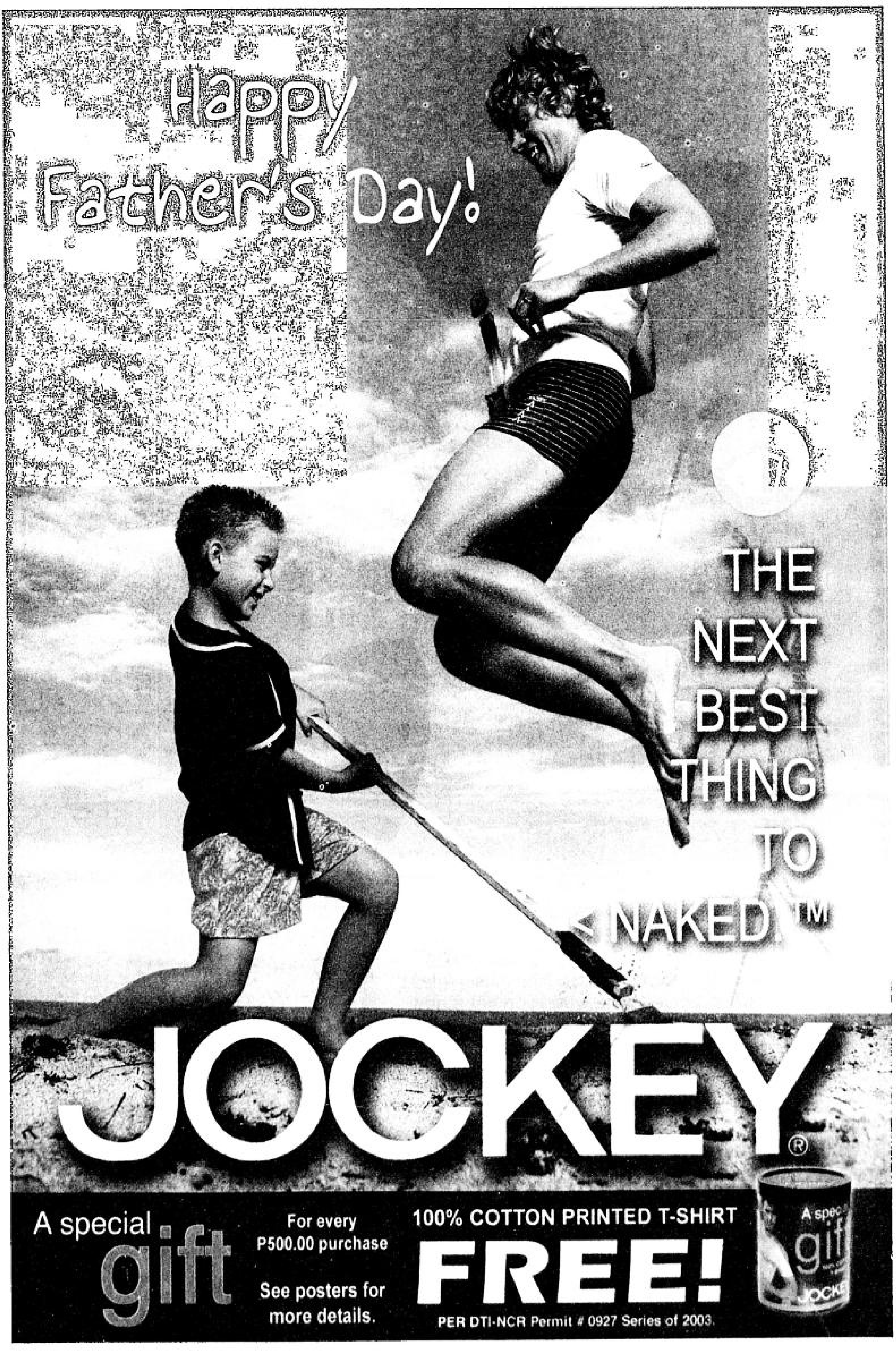
Various accessories are also on sale. Beddings are now available at 10-50 percent less, carpets at 5-percent less, throws at 50-percent less, curtains at 30-percent less, dinnerware at 30-percent less, terra cotta jars at 50-percent less, glassware at 10-percent less, etc.

Play & display is at 6797 Ayala Avenue, Glorietta, Megamall, Edsa Shangri-la Plaza, Power Plant, Festival Mall, Alabang Town Center, SM City North and SM City Pampanga.

NITARA. Recliner sofa available in three-seater and one-seater



JIVE multipurpose showcase in dark walnut color, and Verona, a frosted six-seater dining table paired with brown Desiree dining chairs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UST Philets to honor outstanding alumni

FOUR distinguished alumni of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters (Philets) of the University of Sto. Tomas will be honored by their colleagues at a grand union to be held at 6 p.m. tomorrow, June 14, at the Quezon City Sports Club.

The Golden Owl honorees are Dr. Emerita Quito for philosophy, INQUIRER founding chair Eugenia Duran Apostol for journalism, press freedom icon Jose G. Burgos, Jr. for principled leadership, and National Artist Francisco Sionil Jose for literature.

They were chosen for excellence in their respective fields which have been acknowledged by international and national bodies. Each honoree will receive a golden owl medal and scroll.

Retired Prof. Ma. Luisa Zumel-Lopez is the chair of the awards committee with author-journalist Alice Colet-Villadolid and communication practitioner Vic del Fierro, Jr. as members.

Former Congressman and Lakas spokesperson Gualberto Lumauig and Rafael Dante Cruz, chair and president, respectively, of the Philets Foundation, will lead the evening reunion expected to be the biggest gathering yet of writers, journalists, communication practitioners, educators and public servants who graduated from the former Faculty of Philosophy and Letters.

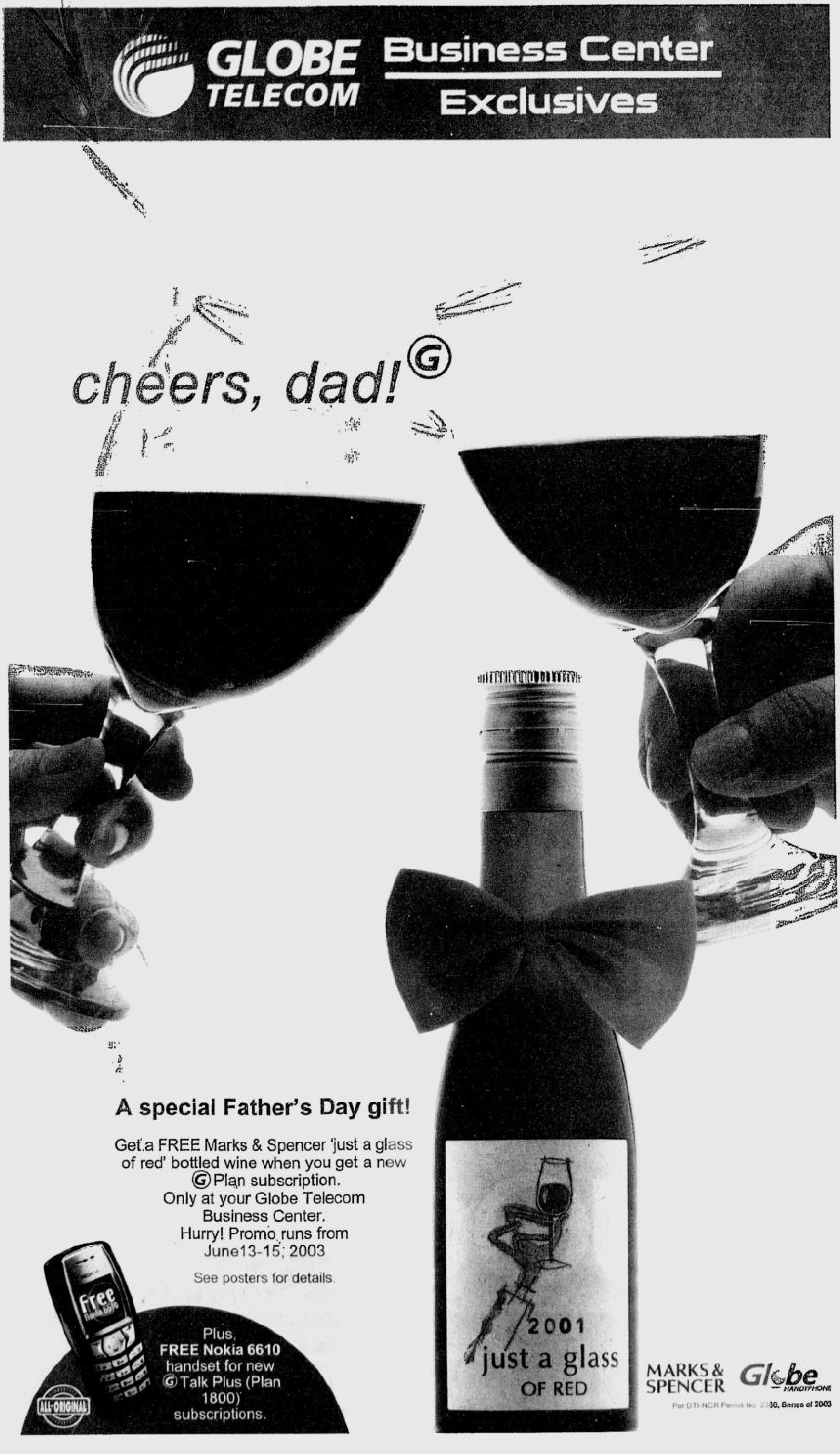
Class '53 will be this year's golden jubilarians while Class '51 and below will be the platinum jubilarians.

The Philets Foundation was organized in 1997 to preserve and propagate the excellent traditions and values of the former Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of UST.

Regular members are also drawn from the Faculty of Arts and Letters, UST.

Philets are advised to contact the Philets Foundation Secretariat manned by Lalie Dua-Garcia, tel. 725-2973 and Menchu Bon, tel. 928-5117.

PLAINS & Prints was again cited as Outstanding Ladies Apparel Brand in the 2003 Asia-Pacific Consumers Award at Ateneo de Manila University. The citation affirmed Plains & Prints impact on consumers and the fashion industry.



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MARKS & SPENCER
Globe HANDYPHONE
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2380, Series of 2003

Workshop on carpentry, freebies for dads

JOIN the hands-on workshop on Power Tools 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., June 28-29, at Sinag Arts Studio. Rene Cubar, a craftsman, will facilitate the workshop. The Sinag Arts Studio is at 664 San Ignacio St., Mandaluyong City. Call 5313491.

GOINGS ON

FAIR. The Robinsons Malls will treat dads to a day of freebies and free coffee in "Dad's Incredible—A Father's Day Fair," 10 a.m.-6 p.m., June 15. Dads who visit the malls can choose among free haircut, massage, medical and dental checkups, shoe shine and family portraits.

Robinsons Malls is holding a four-day sale, until June 15. Avail of 50 percent discounts on school items and supplies.

GOLF TOURNAMENT. The 1st Chi Rho Cup Golf Open, originally scheduled on May 29, will be held on June 19 at the Aoki Course, Eagle Ridge Golf and Residential Estates. All tickets already sold will be honored. Tickets will also be sold on the tournament day. Registration starts at 6 a.m. Call 4335337, 5805400/19.

BENEFIT CONCERT. Lani Misalucha and the Mabuhay Deseret Foundation present the "Change-a-Life" benefit concert on June 19 at the Music Museum in Greenhills.

The concert will raise funds to sponsor indigent patients who will undergo surgery such as removal of cataracts, correction of cleft lip/palate or clubfoot, and other medical conditions.

Tickets are available at Dome Café in Greenbelt 1, Shangri-La Plaza, The Podium and the Solid Malls building, and the Music Museum in Greenhills. Call 9120105.

SHOWS. The Star Group of Malls celebrates Father's Day with special shows. Jenine Desiderio sings at 3 p.m., June 15, at the Starmall Concert Hall, 2/L of Starmall.

Metropolis Star holds "Star Si Daddy" promo where a minimum of P200 single or accumulated purchases from the mall's retail outlets on June 15 entitle dads to a special prize by sending receipts at the Customer Service Counter.

Also on June 15, matinee idol Richard Gutierrez of the popular teen TV show " Click" performs at the 4/L of Metropolis Star Trade Hall.

Kids can look forward to June 29 when the Batibot characters present a back-to-school show at the Trade Halls of Starmall and Metropolis Star.

CONCERT. Shangri-La Plaza Mall presents a special countdown concert for the launch of the Streetscape at the internal avenue of the mall. Acoustic singer Paulo Santos is featured on June 20 while Star Records' premier reggae band, Indio I, will go on stage on June 21. Piñacolada will perform on June 22, Itchyworms! on June 27, the Sound on June 28 and Orange and Lemons on June 29. Shows start at 7 p.m. Admission is free. Call 6337851 or 6361225.

RAFFLE. The Philippine Association of Board Examiners has postponed its raffle from June 16 to Dec. 5.

FUNDRAISER. The Red Cross Fund Raising Committee will hold "Rhapsody in Red" on June 24 at Mandarin Oriental. The event includes a dinner, auction of Murano sculptures and a musical presentation. A catalog of the pieces for auction will be available June 14-23. Call 8952109/ 8969591.

SEMINAR. The Development Academy of the Philippines is holding a seminar on spiritual intelligence (SQ) at its conference center in Tagaytay City, July 4-6. The two-day event aims to provide a practical application for SQ in meeting challenges faced by businesses and individuals. Dr. Andre San Agustin, an international master trainer and former professor of the Asian Institute of Management, will conduct the seminar. Call 0918-9230831 or (046)4131291/92.

EXHIBIT. The 3rd International Exhibits in Modern Education and Related Equipment, Products, Services and Technology will be held on Aug. 1-3 at the Philippine Trade Training Center. Call 651-1749 and 451-0946.

The Society of Portrait Photographers of the Philippines (SPPP) resumes the Asian mentor series on June 28 at the Product Development and Design Center Philippines, Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. Visit Once Upon A Lifetime Digital Studio, Unit 1010 or call 8061346. Registration can be done at DCP during workshop hours or call 0916-4693388/0917-4118339 or 8217978.

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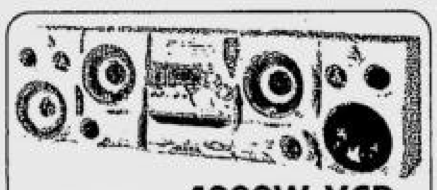

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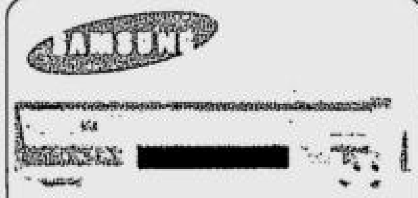

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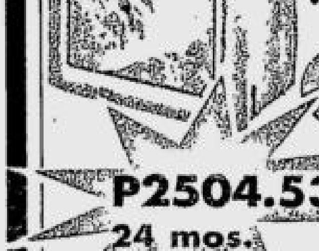

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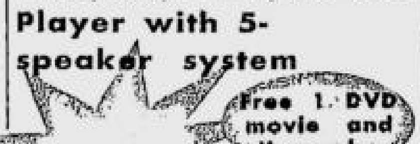

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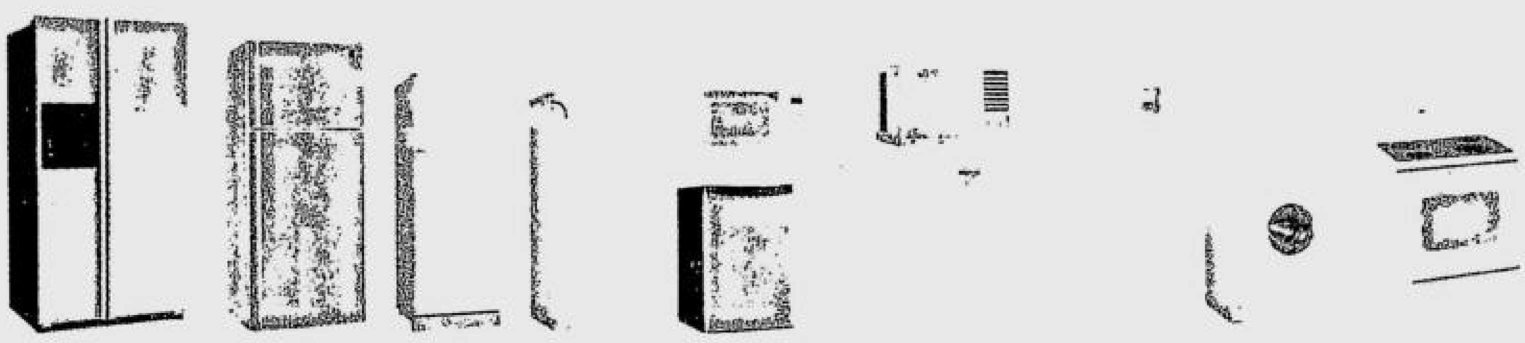

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GE Appliances garners awards, lauds CYA Industries

ON THE heels of garnering awards and distinctions from several local bodies, GE Appliances recently praised its local distributor for its biggest regional award yet. "Once again, we stand proud yet with this prestigious distinction - the only Platinum SuperBrand for refrigeration in the Philippines," remarked Hamilton Hung, Market Development Director for GE Appliances While in regular cases there are 2 or 3 SuperBrand Awardees per category, GE was the only awardee in its category due to the lopsidedness of the survey tallies in its favor. No other brand in the category qualified for the award. Hung adds, "we are pleased and at the same time humbled knowing that it would not have been possible without our loyal customers and of course, our distributor in the Philippines, CYA Industries. We are quite overwhelmed by the amount of success that our brand has achieved in such a short time with them." CYA Industries re-launched GE Appliances in the Philippines in October 2001.

Overseas, GE is regarded as one of the top 5 International brands alongside the likes of Coca-cola, Microsoft and IBM (according to Interbrand and BusinessWeek). It has also been named the world's most respected company by the Financial Times and America's Most Preferred Appliance Brand by the Louis-Harris Poll.

The regional and international awards mirror the brand's local sales performance in particular, the BPI Installment Madness held thrice a year at the Sunken Area in Makati's Glorietta. The exhibition is widely regarded as the Philippine appliance industry's barometer in determining the brands and products preferred by consumers. In the most recent edition of the exhibit, GE was for the 5th straight time named the top white line up there with top brown line Sony.

Last May 24, GE was also cited as the Most Outstanding Refrigerator Brand in the Annual National Consumers Excelence Awards (Anca). Now on its 18th year, the Anca is organized by the Parangal ng Bayan Foundation which is acknowledged as one of the country's biggest organization which gives due recognition to outstanding Filipinos and world-class achievers from various fields of endeavor. The event also confers a special tribute to outstanding companies / manufacturers, products and services that have made excellent contributions in shaping the well-being of the Philippine market.

Almost simultaneously, GE was also recognized as the Most Outstanding Refrigerator Manufacturer by the Organization for Peace and Progressive Oriented (Oppo). Known for its "Parangal sa Pamilyang Pilipino (Recognition of the Filipino Family)," the OPPO's 2003 Products and Services Excellence Awards is bestowed on outstanding consumer products and manufacturers as well as outstanding agencies and companies based on random surveys and opinion polls.

Jeho Ryu , GE Appliances General Manager, notes "it is gratifying to see that GE is recognized not only by international orgnnizations but by local ones as well. It is a sign that we are doing a good job of extending a better life for people across the globe."

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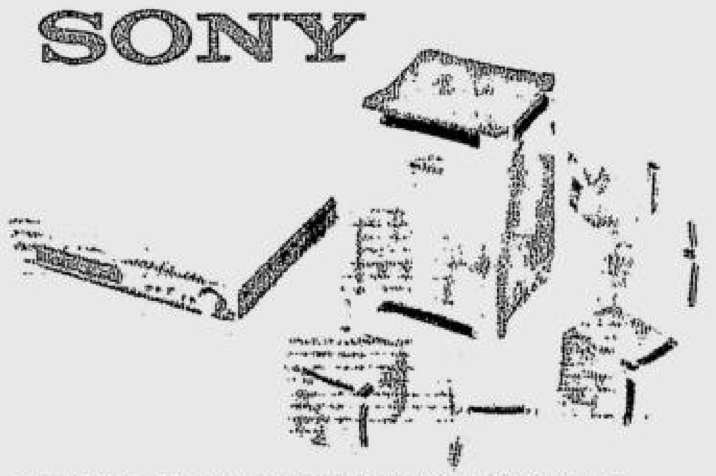

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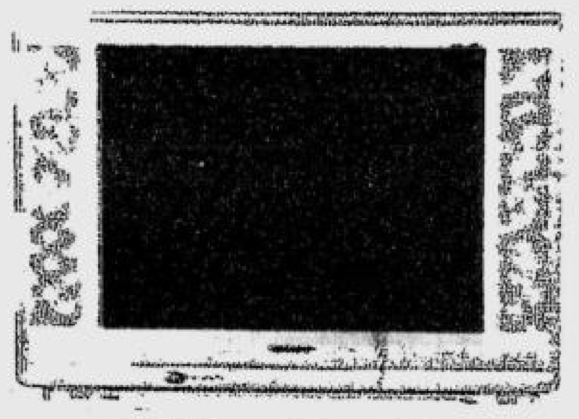

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12 mos

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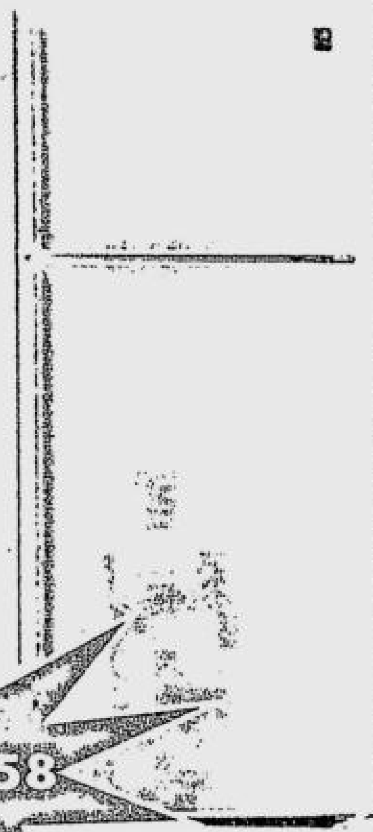

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12 mos.

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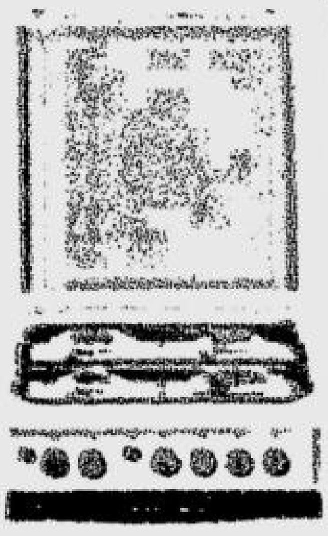

Free 1 Kg. Macaroni & 1 kg. Tomato Sauce

P2832.50
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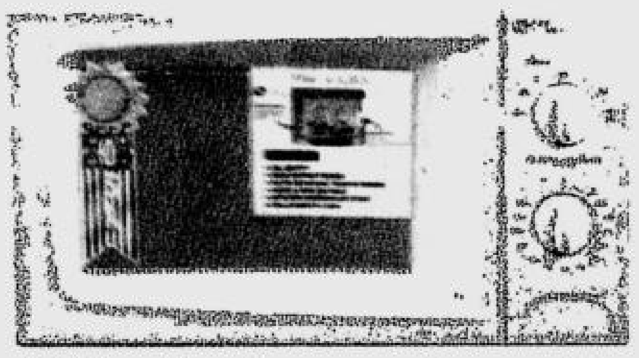

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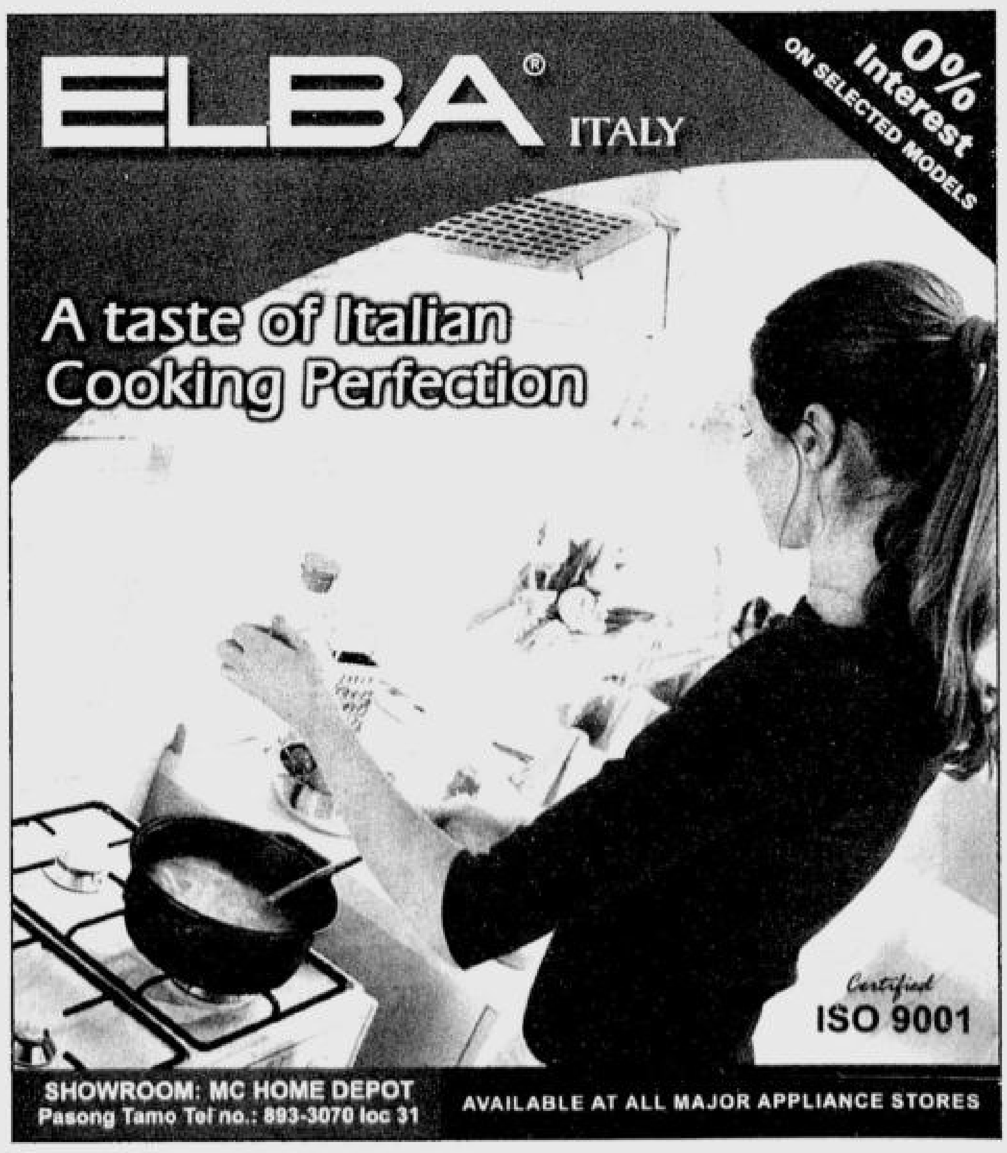

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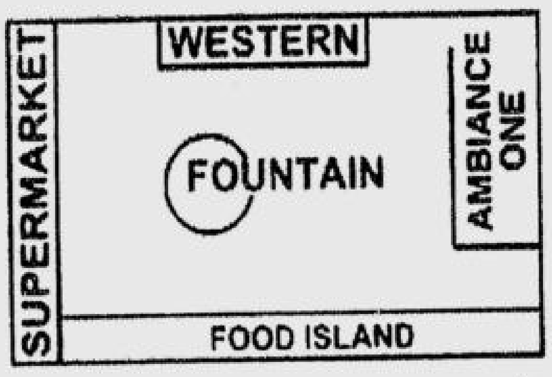
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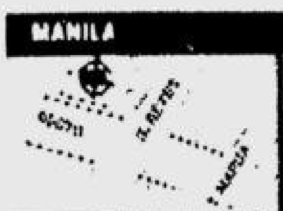
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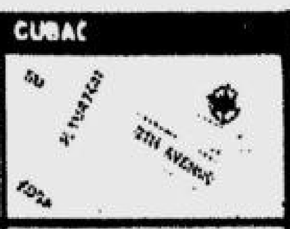
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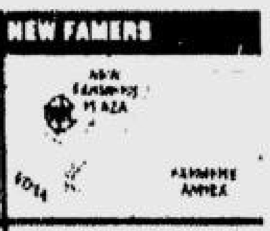
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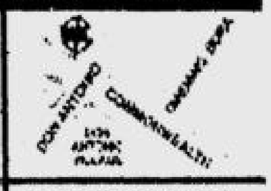
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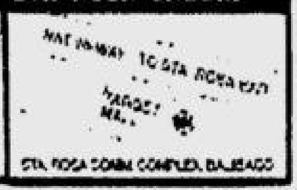
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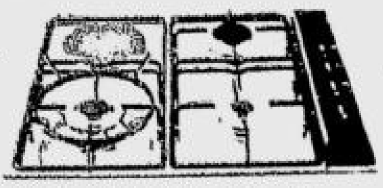

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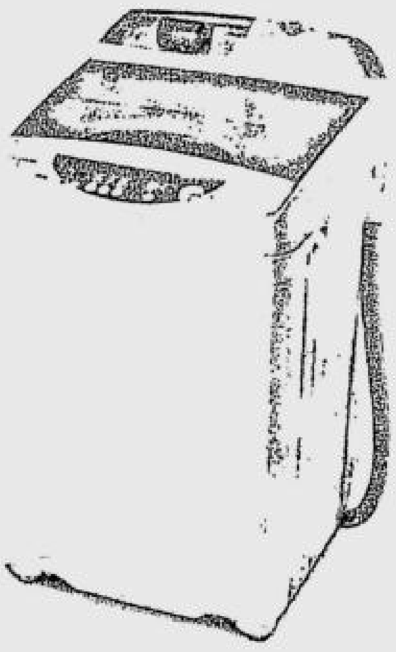

Introducing the Sharp Aquamagic washing machines. With filters that purify water before it enters the tub. Now your clothes won't turn yellow even if you use deepwell water. And with purer water, your detergent cleans even better. The Sharp Aquamagic washers. Because clean clothes start with clean water.

SHARP

Key Features

1. Filter

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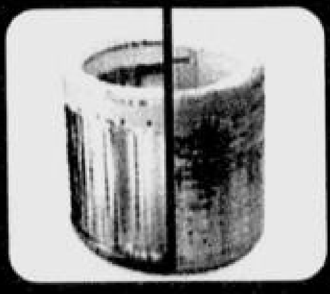
Strictly Prohibited!
The Filter Removes Rust
in the water supply

Aquamagic filter removes iron particles, prevents clothes from turning yellowish.

2. Holeless Tub



Mold-resistant stainless steel tub has no holes so it saves water.

ES-710PF
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Aquamagic

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Is Martha Stewart living?

The lifestyle icon seems to have fallen, so, are skeletons tumbling out of the closet?

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

IN A MAGAZINE store in Castro, San Francisco, a magazine that said "Martha Stewart Living" caught my eye because it was in newsprint and in tackiest color possible—so un-**Martha Stewart**, in short.

Walking closer to it, I made out the logo: "Is Martha Stewart Living?" "Is" and "?" were in much smaller typefaces, so that from a distance it read "Martha Stewart Living." The magazine contained every imaginable how-to on unstylish living, from clogged sinks to dead blooms—a hilarious antithesis to Martha Stewart.

I laughed as I pored over it. I now regret that I didn't buy it. This was in the late '90s.

Even then people were already spoofing Martha Stewart, the icon of today's lifestyle, and the gay population was doing it most ingeniously. (Castro is San Francisco's gay district.)

Last week, the most unstylish thing happened to Martha. Charges were filed against her in connection with an insider trading case that involved the sale of her shares in ImClone Systems Inc., a biotech firm run by a man said to be her friend. (**Sam Waksal**, her friend and the firm's head, was sentenced this week to seven years in prison for securities fraud.)

Worse, she was unseated as chair and CEO of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc., the company she herself founded and which, through her incredible branding, went public years ago after a most successful IPO.

She had to give up her positions when the company's stock plunged to as low as 20 percent as the insider-trading probe went on. She was dragging down her own firm.

Media phenomenon

Martha Stewart has been one of the strongest global brands of the '90s until today's foul-up. She is the era's media phenomenon.

Her books and magazines—from Martha Stewart Living to Martha Stewart Wedding—are the bible of women of different ages and lifestyles, their aspiration being to wed, entertain and make a home in a most tasteful, most creative and unique manner.

The book "Martha Stewart Entertaining," the first in her publishing venture, came out at a time when people were going back to the security of hearth and home. She rode on the "cocooning" wave of the '90s, when people

IS MARTHA/ M4

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CASUAL and relaxed ensemble

SPORTSWEAR classic white pieces

Classic white

SUMMER whites are the highlights of the Polo Ralph Lauren collection. The limited color palette provides a clean canvas for modern silhouettes and new models. It creates a sophisticated Sportswear concept that is easy to wear.

Polo Ralph Lauren is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. and is available at the Greenbelt Mall, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, 158 Designer's Blvd., Alabang Town Center and Rustan's Makati.

WESTERN-STYLE cowboy number

CUTTING-EDGE urban look

MODERN utility jacket

Dressing up men

MARLBORO Classics' spring/summer 2003 men's collection features the Western Classics, American Classic and Utility.

Western Classics captures a true western spirit in colors and fabrics while American Classics presents a strong sense of colors and cut. The Utility line offers two references: army and work uniforms.

Marlboro Classics is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc., with stores at Level 2, Shangri-La Plaza; 2/F Rustan's Makati; Level 1, Glorietta 2; G/F Alabang Town Center; Level 2, SM Megamall B; Level 2, Robinsons Place; Level 2, Festival Supermall; and R-1, Power Plant Mall.

HIP and young

Witty Knit

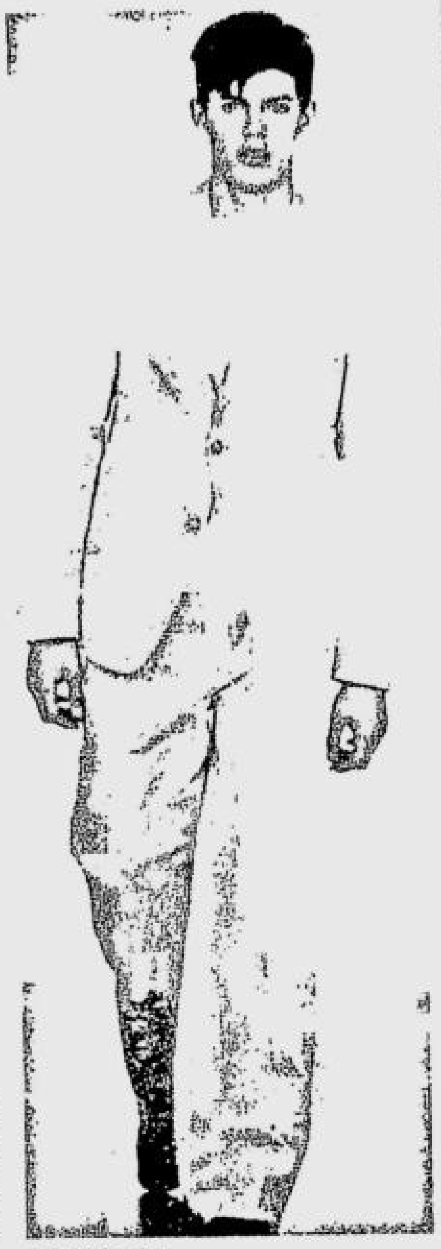
KENNETH Cole's spring fashion marks the return and reworking of knits. For spring 2003, the woven shirt will take the spotlight, as it gets a sexy spin.

Exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc., Kenneth Cole stores are located at Rustan's Department Store in Makati, Greenbelt 3 Mall in Ayala Center, Power Plant Mall in Rockwell Center, 158 Designers' Blvd. in Alabang Town Center and Shangri-La Plaza Mall on Edsa.

SMOOTH and rough ensemble

CLEAN and classic look

LAIDBACK combo



COOL basics

CASUAL print on print

Modern bourgeois

BALLY'S men's collection is inspired by the modern bourgeois. Natural Vachetta Leather, ostrich, heavyweight canvas and lightweight poplin dominate the materials.

Bally is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc.

"**WILD** boy" look

Function and style

FERRAGAMO'S spring/summer collection links sartorial quality with functionality. It features soft, simple lines, generous volumes, crafted finish and high-tech flawless details.

The collection includes office, casual and leisure wear.

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CLUB WHERELSE

around town

PART 2... LIBIS
SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 9PM
CLUB CENTRO

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INQUIRER 2bU
LEMON www.lemonph.com
SKY internet

French skin care for men

WHO says skin care products are only for women?

Matis, a French brand found only at Essenses at Rustan's, features a whole line of men's skin care products that go beyond the traditional shaving creams and after shaves.

Matis Homme's range includes 11 skin care products especially formulated and packaged for men's needs.

Matis Homme includes the Le Reveil energizing hair and body wash which works as both a shampoo and shower gel.

The Le Nettoyant gentle foaming cleanser is specially formulated to help control sebum in the face, while the Le Rasage shaving gel has lubricating agents that allow the razor to glide smoothly over the skin to avoid scraping.

This can be followed by the Le Soin radiant Inking gel which helps the skin fight the ravages of time, pollution and stress, or the L'Apres Rasage, an after-shave moisturizing balm that leaves a cool and smooth feeling to the skin.

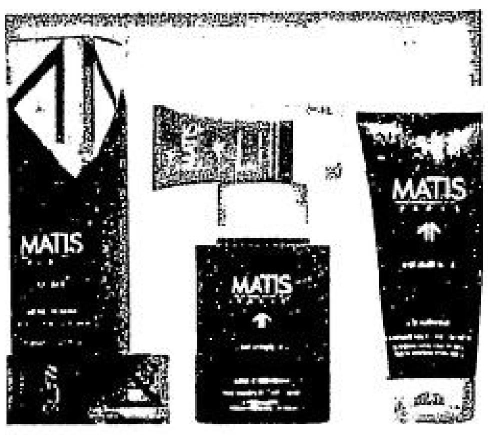
Matis Homme also has a formula called Les Yeux that reduces puffiness and prevents wrinkles and lines in the eye area.

La Creme, on the other hand, is a non-greasy moisturizing cream that helps skin cope with climactic changes by keeping moisture in.

Le Deodorant, a roll-on deodorant, comes with an eight-hour no-perspiration guarantee.

Other unique men's products under Matis include Le Masque, a purifying face mask that cools and refreshes as well as takes away dull dead skin, and L'Auto Bronzant, a self-tanning cream that gives a healthy color a few hours after application.

Available at Rustan's Makati, Alabang and Robinson's Place.



MATIS skin-care line

Men's bath and shaving line with juniper oil

SHOPPING for a gift for dad this Father's Day? Check out L'Occitane's Cade Collection, a selection of treatment products for men containing wild juniper essential oil.

The Cade Collection was inspired by a tradition practiced by shepherds of Provence, France.

These shepherds extracted juniper oil to treat animal wounds and to protect their own hands and faces from the ravages of the sun and seasonal winds.

L'Occitane has taken this tradition and used juniper essential oil to answer the specific needs of men's skin.

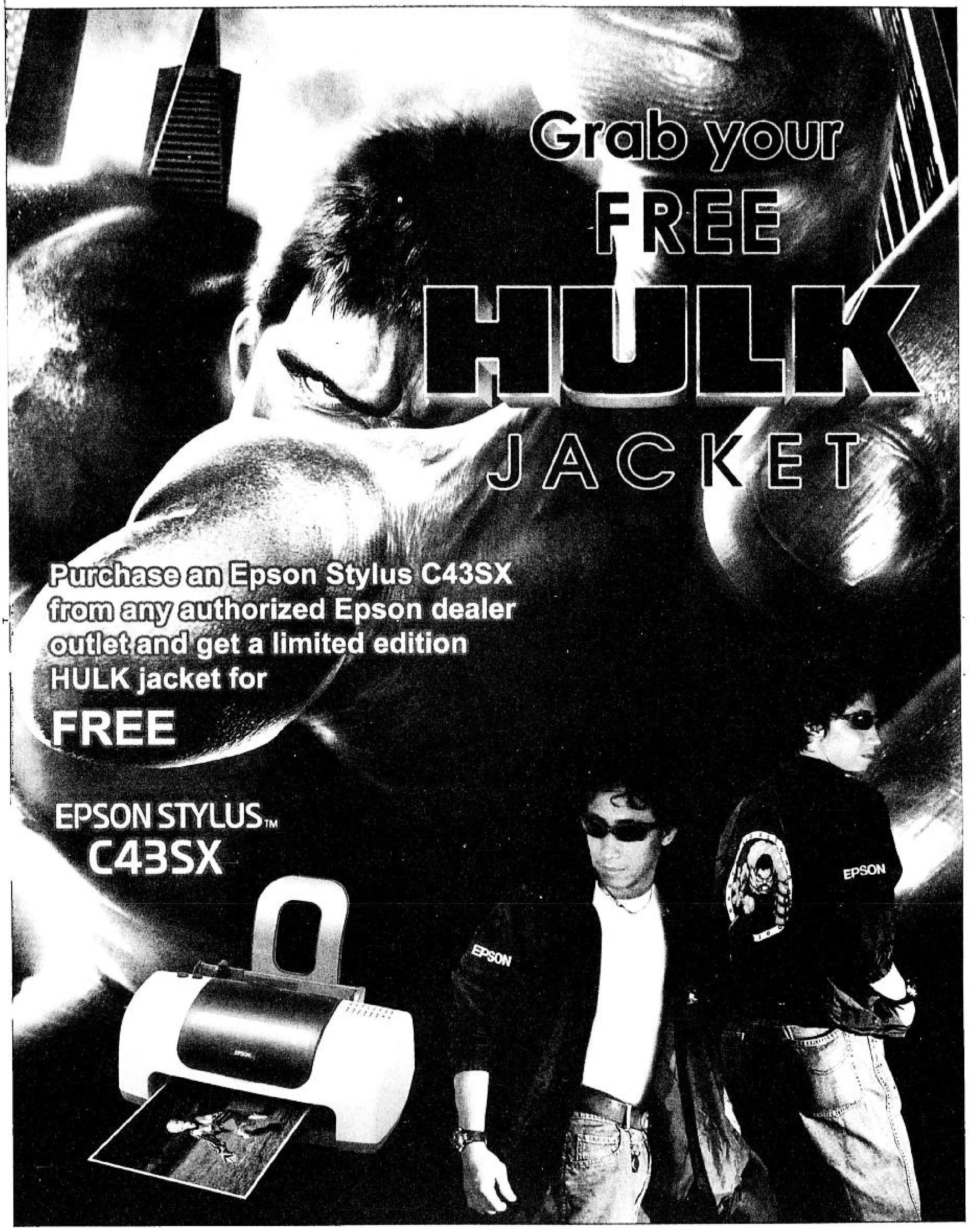
The oil purifies the skin by regulating the secretion of sebum and preventing the development of bacteria. It also protects the skin from external irritants with its anti-free radical activity and strengthens it by restoring the uniformity of the outer layer of the skin.

The Cade Collection includes a Reinvigorating Shampoo which is good for both hair and body cleaning, and a Travel Oil which ensures a smooth shave and leaves the skin soft while protecting it from external drying elements.

The line also offers shaving creams and brushes, shaving sticks, after-shave balms and an after-shave lotion called Eau des Bergers.

The Cade collection and other lines offered by L'Occitane are available only at Rustan's.

EPSON
THE POWER TO CREATE



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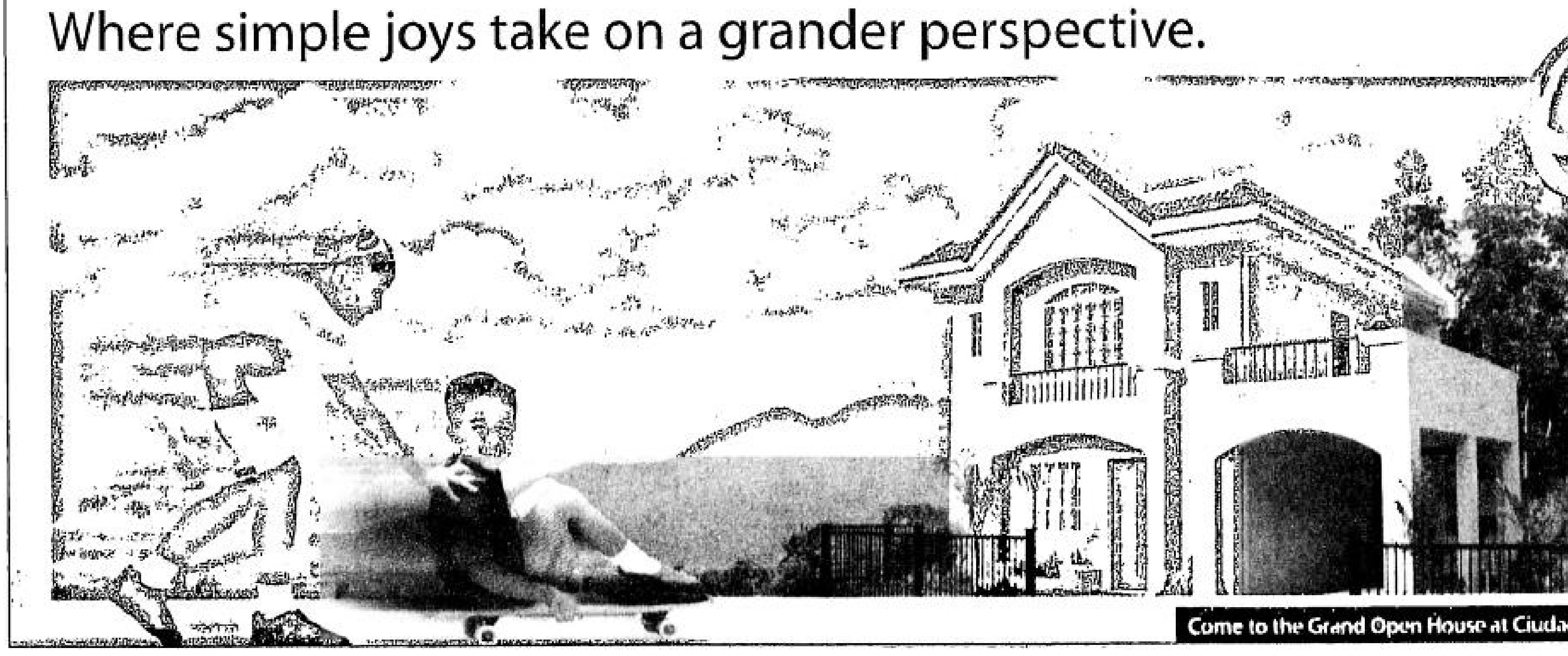

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Come to the Grand Open House at Ciudad de Calamba on June 14, Saturday, 9am - 5pm

Stylish gifts for Dad

FERRAGAMO micro-print ties

THIS Father's Day, give Daddy a stylish gift from the world-famous Ferragamo line of men's clothing and accessories.

Its Resort line uses terrycloth as a luxury fabric. Trousers and shirts in coral, sea-blue, sepia and beige for nautical and savannah prints are also available.

For shoes, give him the moccasins made of new dakar suede, in classic single or two-tone leather with signature "gancino" buckles.

Sandals are in beaver suede or black patent; dream drive shoes are made of deer, ostrich and crocodile skins.

Traditional Ferragamo micro-print ties feature savannah motifs as well as seaside scenes in summer colors.

For dads who love to travel, Ferragamo's line of duffel and tote bags and several items of hand luggage are made of a new exclusive textured, material with leather details.

Exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc., Salvatore Ferragamo has shops at Power Plant Mall, Greenbelt 1, Alabang Town Center, Rustan's Tower, Rustan's Makati and Rustan's Cebu.

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Is Martha Stewart living?

From page M1

SHE came at a time when people wanted the feel and look of real flowers.

wanted a respite from the rat race, to downshift and to chill out in their homes. In short, she came at a time when people wanted the feel and look of real flowers.

From cooking, baking to flower arrangements to sewing, she made people rediscover homemaking, as if Old World homemaking was really doable in this day and age. The unauthorized Martha Stewart bio, "Just Desserts," quoted the Wall Street Journal: "Although it purports to be a practical guide to a stylish home, Martha Stewart Living portrays a fantasy world where women have time to play croquet, kids are clean, and checks don't bounce."

But checks do bounce. Yet the pages of Martha Stewart magazines transport you to a world that, you're made to believe, is possible to create and, in fact, you yourself could create.

Martha Stewart created a business model that media moguls have been trying to copy since—a multimedia brand that crosses every lucrative platform possible: books, magazines, syndicated newspaper column, television shows, events, catalog-mail order, cyberspace, endorsements.

In the magazine business, she spawned a genre—from content to packaging.

Even Time-Warner (which once owned Martha Stewart, until the partnership collapsed) came out with a clone called Real Simple (a much more practical magazine, I believe).

Martha Stewart isn't only a lifestyle icon, she's also the media success of the era. It's reported that she charges $25,000 ('90s rate) for each personal appearance.

Bigger kick

Of course, I love flipping through the pages of her publications, but I must now admit I get a bigger kick scanning her unauthorized bio by **Jerry Oppenheimer** (whose credits include bios of Rock Hudson and Barbara Walters) published in 1997 when Martha Stewart was, hands down, the "deity of domesticity," the ultimate arbiter of home and entertaining styles.

The bio is so unflattering, to put it mildly. It is a demolition job yet you can't dismiss it because it's the result obviously of hundreds of interviews with Martha's kin, associates, friends, enemies, ex-flames, its scope spanning Martha's Polish ancestors to the scores of cooks, stylists and floral designers who made her Omnimedia possible.

Here's the dish, or a fragment of it:

- Martha Stewart Weddings was being launched just when Martha's husband Andy packed up his things and left her. That marriage, the book labored to prove, had been as nurturing as the desert sand for years. Yet it seemed that among the smartest moves made by Martha Kostyra was to marry into the Wasp-y Stewart family. Imagine how Martha Kostyra's (her maiden name) Living sounds compared to Martha Stewart. **Andy Stewart** is a Yale law graduate and the brother of Martha's classmate at Barnard College.
- Upon learning that her husband had left her, after years of putting up with her, she went to a confidante who, of course, would later recall Martha's fury to Oppenheimer. It gave a profile of a neurotic who pulled hair (her own) in an outburst. **Tatlock** (the friend) said, "....she showed me a patch of scalp where she had actually pulled out her hair in front of Andy... I was alarmed. I suggested that she get some help. Martha said, 'Oh, I've already tried that, and it doesn't work for me because I'm always smarter than the shrink...'"
- Born to a hardworking couple of Polish descent in Nutley, New Jersey, Martha is profiled as driven, one tough cookie who knew how to use people and ideas to get where she wanted to go, who would not think twice of using and abusing people, her family included (she made her siblings pick up the tab for the 80th birthday party of her mom, even as she meticulously presented it in Martha Stewart Living as her labor of love and style).

However, even considering the tons of Oppenheimer's unflattering interviews, you'd be impressed with how Martha pursued her goals with such single-mindedness.

She had such focus even as a student. Her parents being middle-class, she worked to enter Barnard, and in this fine college, she studied hard, plunged herself into so many activities to chalk up achievements, to the point that the guys were intimidated to date her. She worked to become a model so she could earn enough while in school.

Even her choices of dates must have served her agenda.

Even after she got married, she toiled as a model (TV and print commercials, including Lifebuoy. She was turned down by J & J. Interesting, really).

When years later she realized she wouldn't rule the world as a model, since there were a lot of prettier and taller girls, she grabbed other opportunities. Then came catering, which set her on her way to becoming the Martha Stewart.

- Classmates didn't associate her with cooking. Said one: "Martha had about as much interest in cooking as any of us did—zero."
- In college, she wasn't really that exposed to fine dining and living, like she claims in her writings, the book said. As a teen, her school snack consisted of mustard on white bread; in college, it was lettuce and cottage cheese. Oppenheimer was out to prove that her columns and writings in her magazines were embellished stuff, if not outright inventions.
- An interesting detail: **Rosemary Lopez**, our Rosemary Lopez (daughter of the late diplomat and UP president S.P. Lopez), was quoted in the book because she was Martha's classmate at Barnard. The chapter was on Martha's relationships with guys.

Oppenheimer wrote: "Another close friend of Martha's during freshman and sophomore years, Rosemary Lopez Roca (sic, Rocha actually), daughter of a high-ranking diplomat from the Philippines, attributed Martha's sexual conservatism to her Catholicism and the high goals she had set for herself..."

- When she was food editor of House Beautiful, her colleagues were "surprised" that Martha would bring home food and other leftover from a shoot. A colleague recalled: "...All of a sudden the food was packed up and ready to go. I said to Martha, 'Wait a minute, this lady's having a party, what are you doing?' And Martha said, 'Oh, no, I need this food for a catering thing tomorrow.' That became a real problem for us at the magazine..."

Well, so much for style.

And the juicy details came one after another. The book was not titled "Just Desserts" for nothing.

Be that as it may, last week's criminal indictment and whatever skeletons have been tumbling out of Martha Stewart's closet don't change the fact that what this caterer-turned-lifestyle icon has achieved is no mean feat.

For a generation of women (and gays), she defined a lifestyle, or at least a style—even if it wasn't anchored on her real life and our own realities. She crystallized aspirations. And—she built a fortune on it.

It should be interesting to see the fall-out from the fall of Martha Stewart, if, indeed, it's a fall. The impact on the person and the brand.

There goes Martha. Now there's only Oprah.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph

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